

# YU-UKI HAKUSHO

TM

**SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVEL**

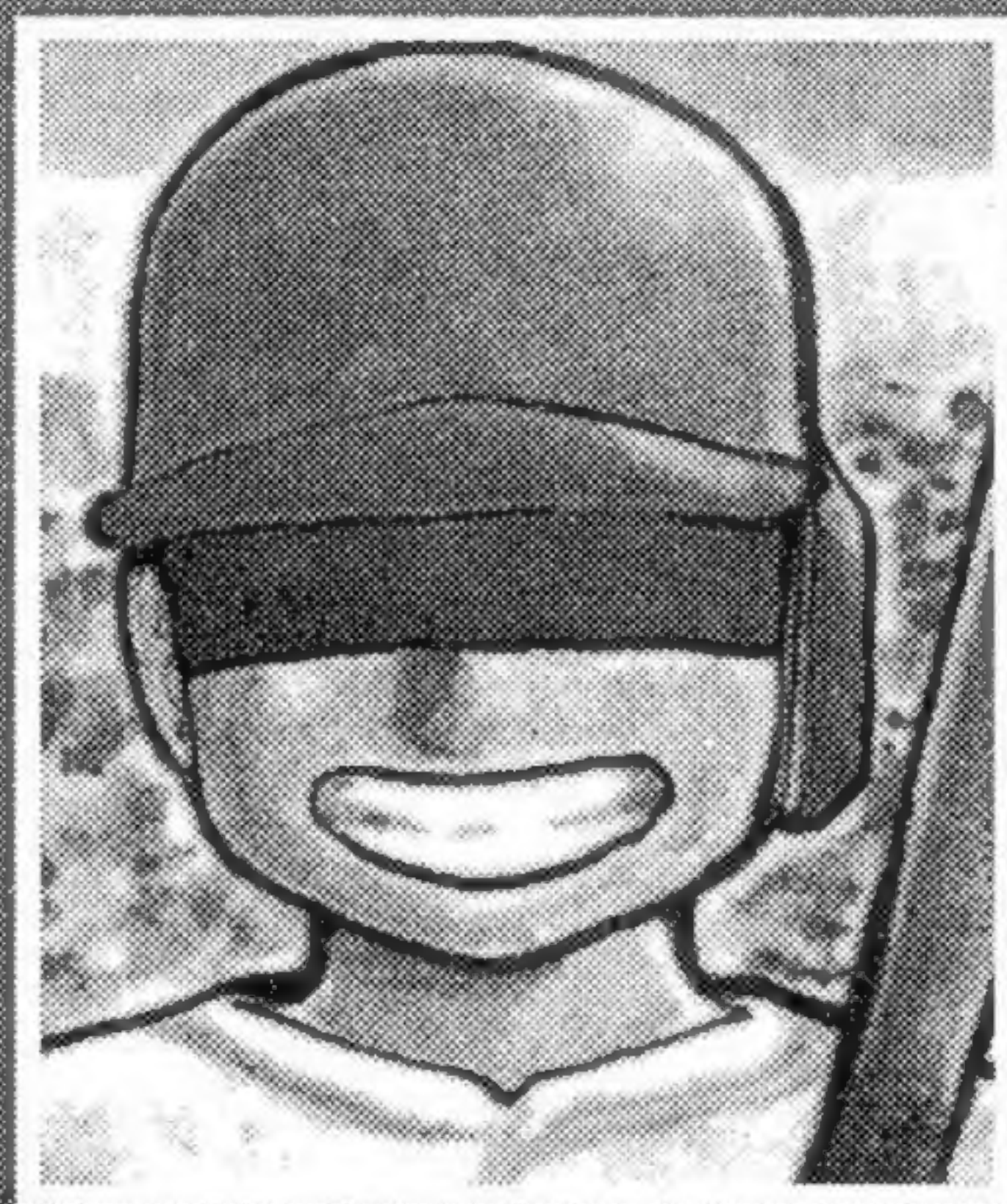
Story & Art by

**Yoshihiro Togashi**

**volume**

**2**





"IF I COULD BE REINCARNATED AS ANYONE, WHO WOULD I BE" PART 2: A PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL PLAYER. I AM TOTALLY UNKNOWN DURING MY DAYS PLAYING AS AN AMATEUR. I AM THE SIXTH PERSON TO BE ASKED BY THE HANSHIN TIGERS IN THE DRAFT PICK, AND GO PRO AT THE AGE OF 20. DESPITE OPPOSITION FROM THE COACHES, I KEEP MY OWN UNIQUE STYLE OF BATTING BY PROVING THAT IT CAN WORK ON THE FIELD. BY MY THIRD YEAR, I HAVE BECOME THE BATTING LEADER, AND THEN I GAIN THE TITLE OF "TRIPLE CROWN" FIVE TIMES. I RETIRE EVEN THOUGH MY TALENT HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETELY TAPPED. AS A STRATEGIST FOR HEAD COACH KAWATOU, THE TIGERS ARE LED TO LAST PLACE IN THE LEAGUE FOR 10 STRAIGHT YEARS. MY LIFETIME BATTING AVERAGE IS .385. TOTAL HOME RUNS, 575.

—YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI, 1991

Yoshihiro Togashi's manga career began in 1986 when, at the age of 20, he won the coveted Tezuka Award for new manga artists. He debuted in the Japanese **Weekly Shonen Jump** magazine in 1988 with the romantic comedy **Tende Shôwaru Cupid**. From 1990 to 1994 he wrote and drew the smash hit fighting manga **YuYu Hakusho**, which was followed by the darkly humorous science-fiction series **Level E** and the adventure story **Hunter x Hunter**. In 1999 he married the manga artist Naoko Takeuchi.



**YUYU HAKUSHO VOL. 2**  
**The SHONEN JUMP Graphic Novel Edition**

This graphic novel contains material that was originally published in English in **SHONEN JUMP** #5-8.

STORY AND ART BY  
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**PARENTAL ADVISORY**

YuYu Hakusho is rated "T" for teens. It may contain violence, language, alcohol or tobacco usage, or suggestive situations. It is recommended for ages 13 and up.

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SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVEL

# YU YU HAKUSHO

TM

Vol.2

## LONESOME GHOSTS



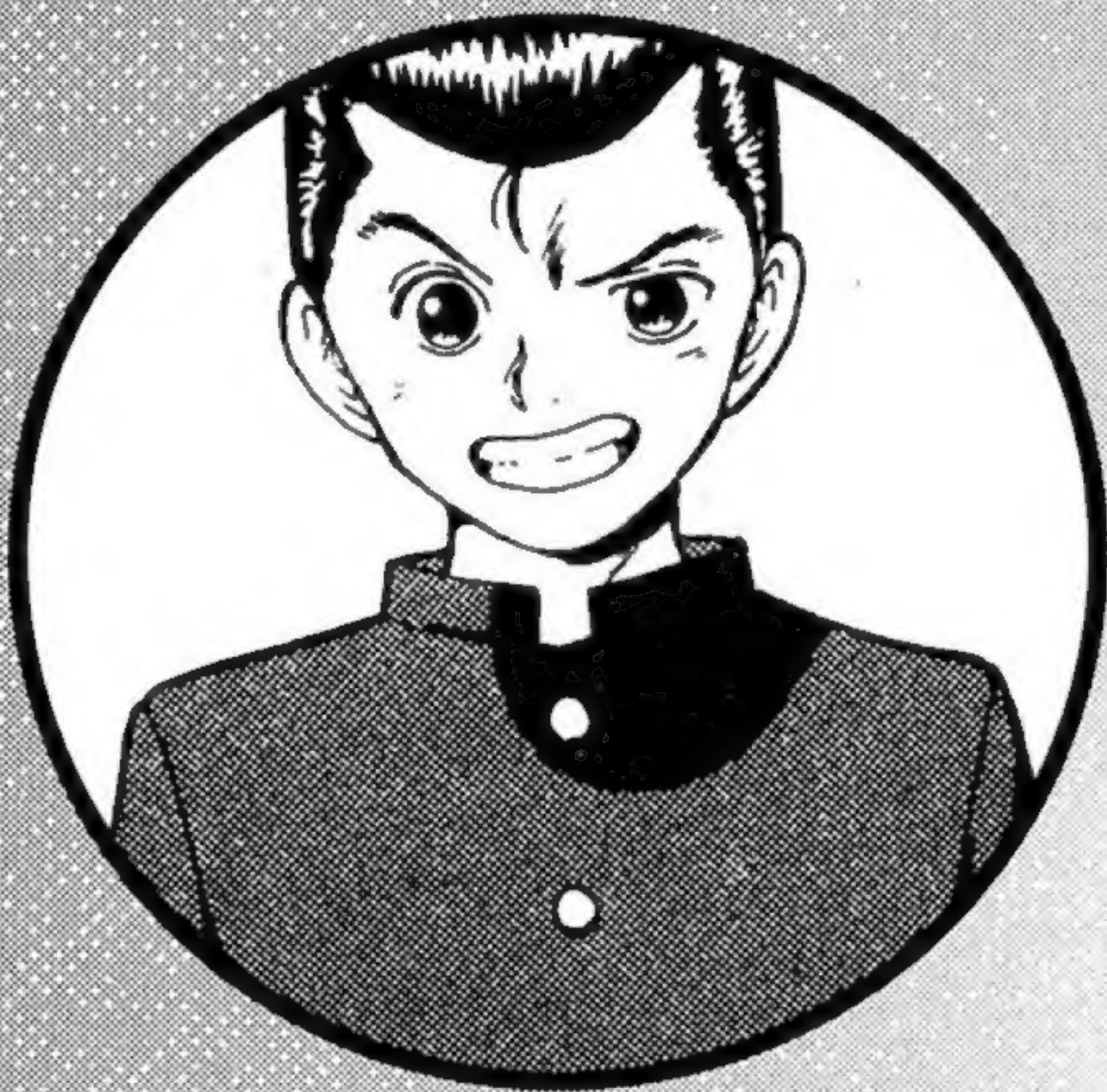
STORY AND ART BY  
**YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI**





## THE STORY SO FAR...

**Y**usuke Urameshi was a teen delinquent until one selfless act changed his life...by ending it. When he died saving a little kid from a speeding car, the afterlife didn't know what to do with him, so they decided to give him a test to come back to life. But until the test is over, Yusuke's spirit can only inhabit his comatose body one day every month, and the laws of the afterlife strictly forbid him from talking to anyone he knows. And on the same day that Yusuke was in his body, his friend Keiko was kidnapped by gang members! How can he save her without blowing his chance for resurrection?

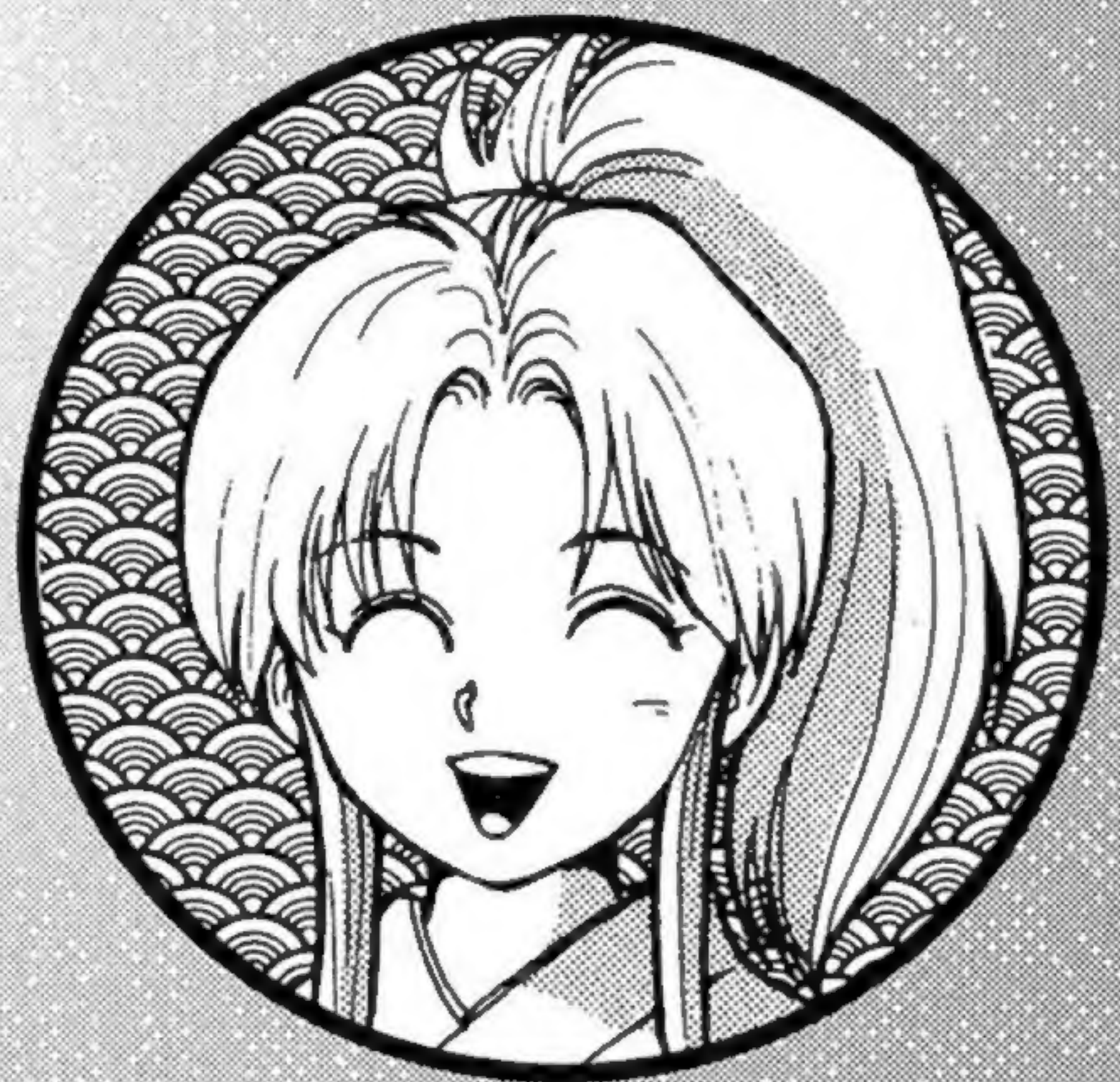


### **YUSUKE URAMESHI** 浦飯幽助

The toughest 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Sarayashiki Junior High, and now the toughest ghost in Tokyo.

### ぼたん **BOTAN**

Often seen riding an oar, Botan is the ferrywoman of the Sanzu River, known as the River Styx in Western mythology. She keeps track of Yusuke's spiritual progress, helping him do good deeds while he's a ghost.



### **KEIKO YUKIMURA** 雪村螢子

Yusuke's childhood friend, and maybe more than that. She's the only one who knows for sure that Yusuke is a ghost, and she helps take care of his comatose body.





### コエンマ KOENMA

The junior lord of the underworld, Koenma judges the dead (together with his father, King Enma) and keeps track of assorted special souls.

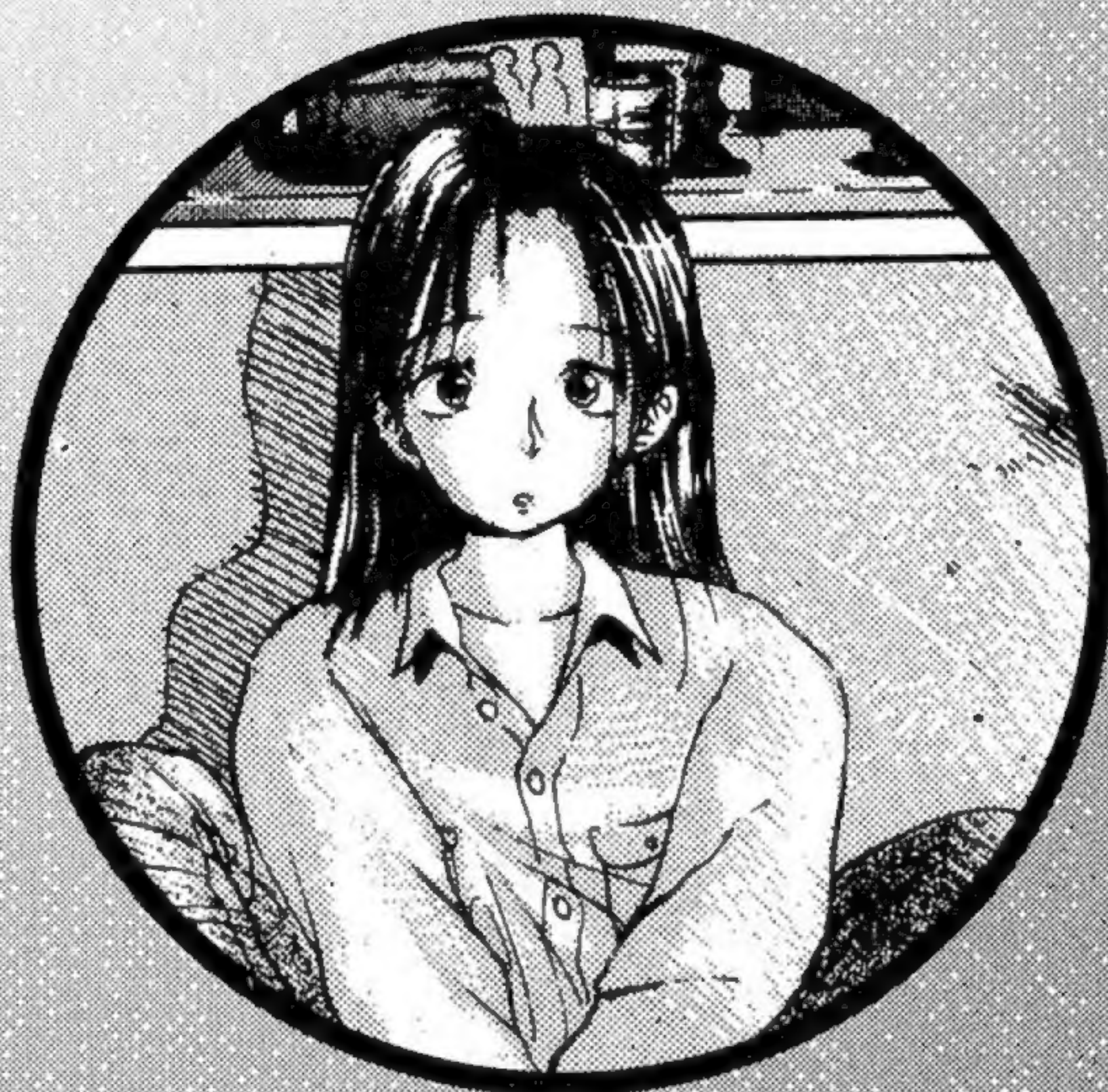


### KUWABARA 桑原

Yusuke's rival, the second-toughest person at Sarayashiki Junior High. Not as bad as he looks.

### 浦飯温子 ATSUKO URAMESHI

Yusuke's mom. She spends most of the time watching TV and drinking, and no one knows how she makes money (though she has been seen extorting money from cops).

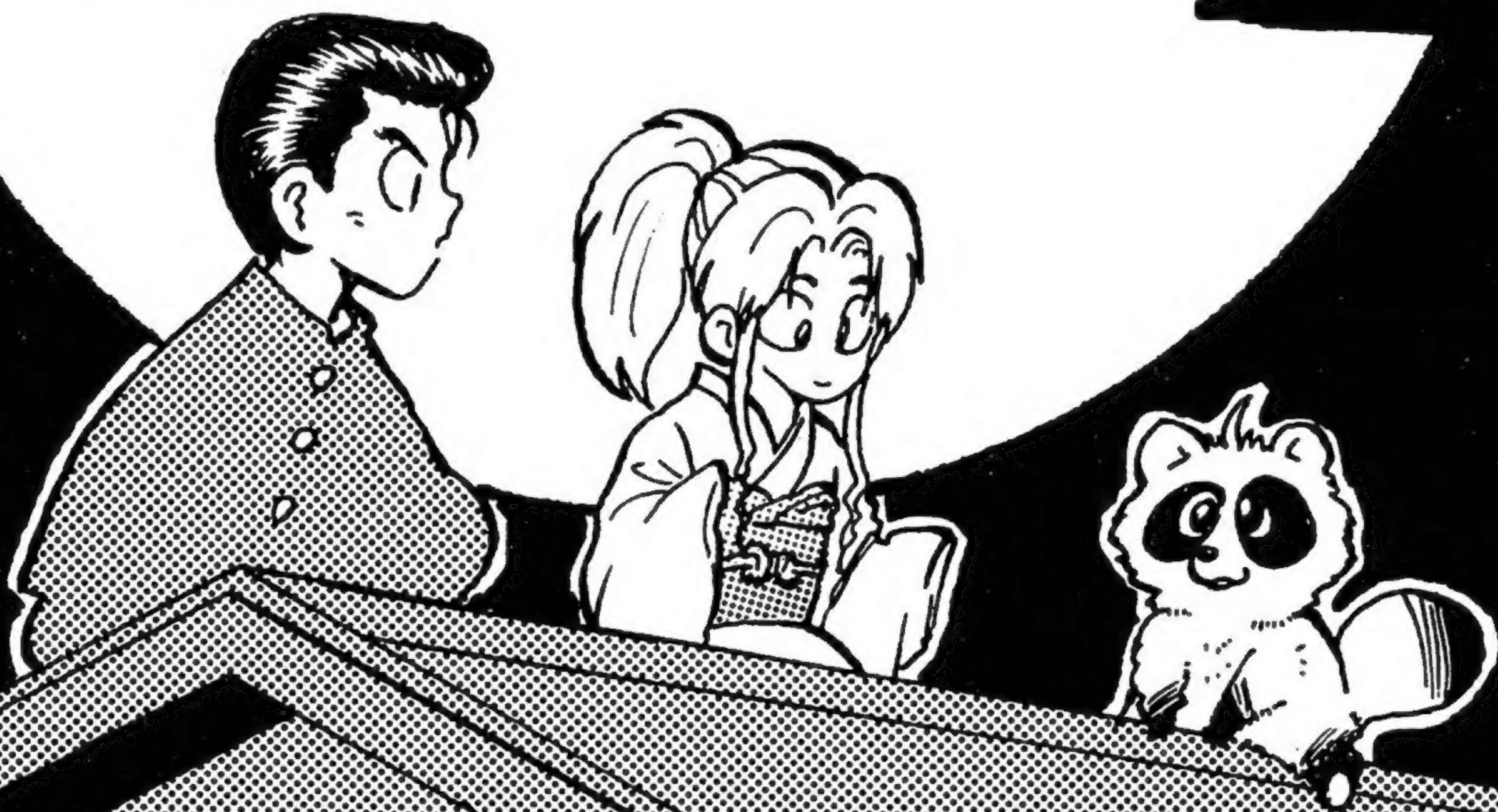






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CAFE  
HALF-DEAD

YO, DAI.  
S'UP,  
MAN?

UM?

GO  
TO  
HELL

F.U.!

SARA-HIGH  
PUNKS SUCK

WHASSUP  
WIT' TH'  
SARAYASHIKI  
JUNIOR HIGH  
SKIRT?

CHAPTER 9:  
THE TEMPORARY RESURRECTION (PART 2)

CREAK

BE RESPECTFUL,  
NOW. SHE'S  
MY GIRL.  
NICE, EH?





...

RIGHT?

HEY, ANY  
CHICK IS MINE  
ONCE I START  
SMOOTH-  
TALKING.



SHE DON'T  
LOOK T' GIVE  
UP ON LIFE  
JUS' YET!

HEH HEH,  
YOU  
SERIOUS?!



WE'RE HERE  
TO PARTY AND  
HAVE FUN.

C'MON KID,  
CHEER UP.



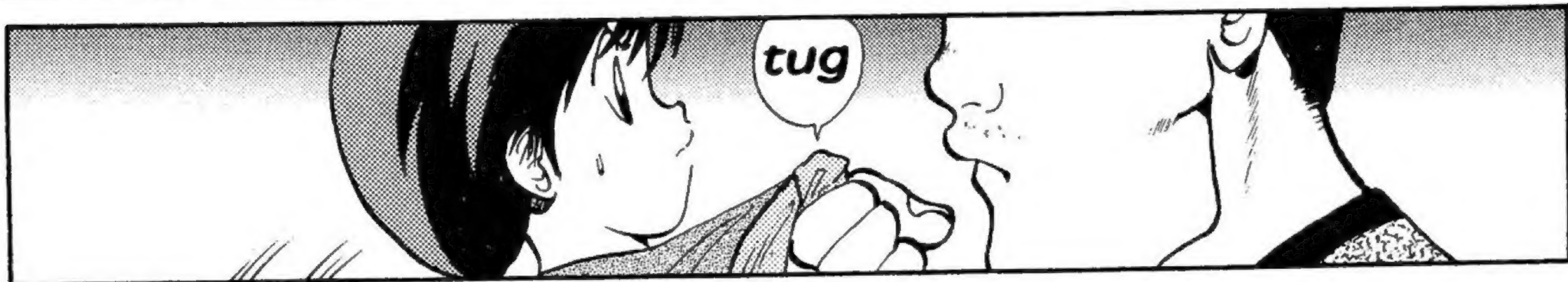
Y'WANNA  
BACK OUT?  
I COULD JUST  
TAKE YOUR TWO  
FRIENDS...



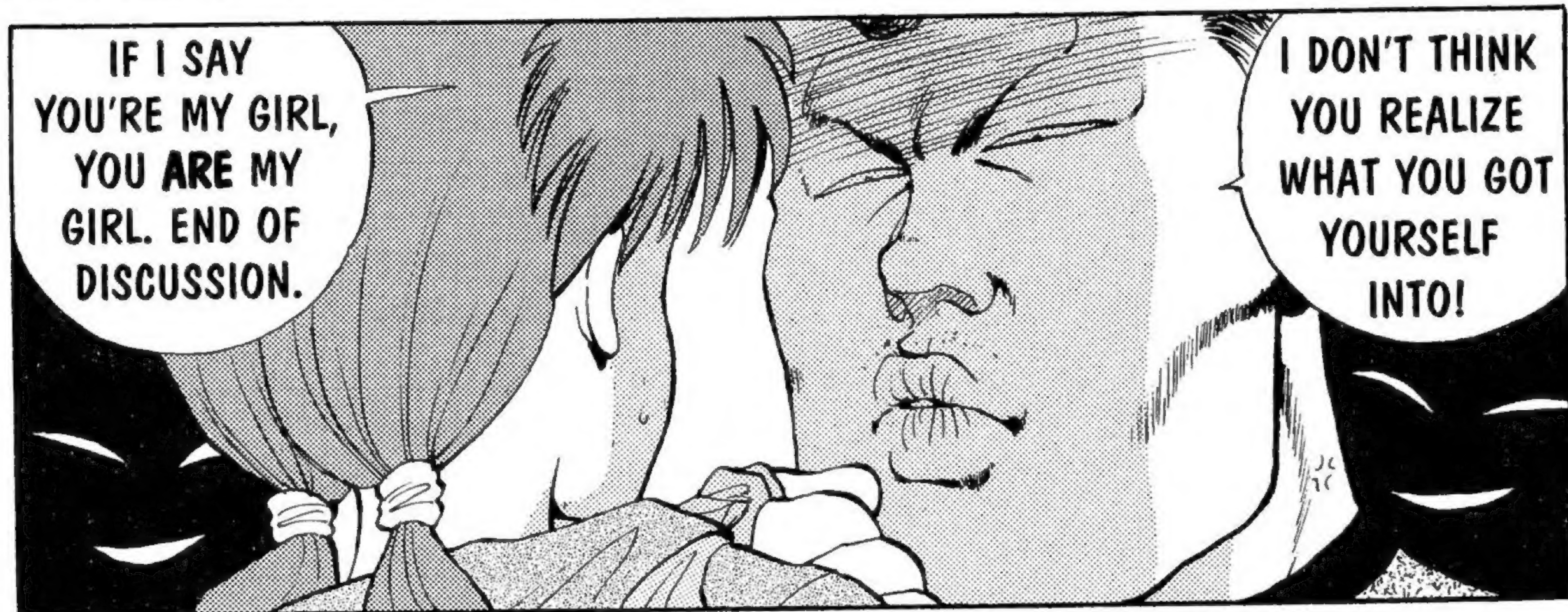
GET YOUR  
PAWS OFF  
ME!

WHAP

SMOOTH  
PICK-UP  
LINE,  
BUSTER.



tug



IF I SAY  
YOU'RE MY GIRL,  
YOU ARE MY  
GIRL. END OF  
DISCUSSION.

I DON'T THINK  
YOU REALIZE  
WHAT YOU GOT  
YOURSELF  
INTO!



## WHAT HAPPENED IN THE LAST EPISODE

AND  
NOW...THE  
CONCLUSION.

YUSUKE WAS PERMITTED  
TO RETURN TO HIS  
SOULLESS BODY FOR A DAY  
TO RECHARGE ITS VITALITY.  
THEN, KEIKO WAS ABDUCTED  
BY SOME KASANEGAFUCHI  
JUNIOR HIGH PUNKS!!

THE LAWS OF THE  
UNDERWORLD FORBID  
YUSUKE FROM TALKING  
TO KEIKO – TO DO SO WOULD BE  
THE AFTERLIFE EQUIVALENT OF  
A FELONY!! WILL HE BE ABLE  
TO SAVE HER?! GOOD LUCK,  
YUSUKE! YOU'LL NEED IT!!

## CHAPTER 9: THE TEMPORARY RESURRECTION (PART 2)





WORD IS HE  
ALREADY RULES  
THE 8TH GRADE  
AT KASANE  
JUNIOR HIGH.

NEW KID  
IN THE AREA,  
WITH A PRETTY  
TOUGH REP.

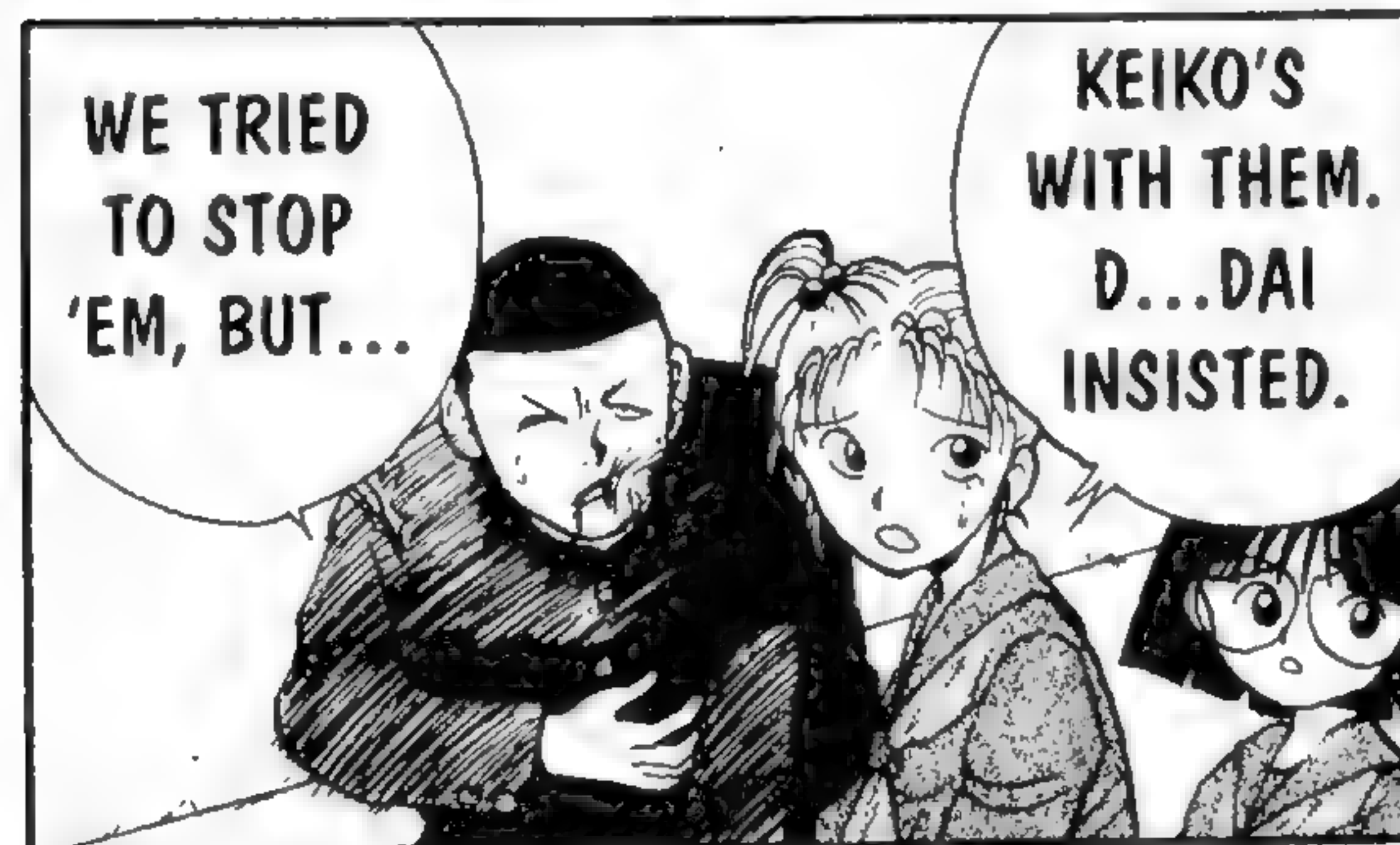


Y...YOU  
KNOW THIS  
CREEP,  
KUWABARA?  
KOFF...

HE HAD  
A REALLY  
BIG HEAD...

LINH...

I'VE HEARD  
OF HIM...  
DAISUKE  
MOTOMOTO.



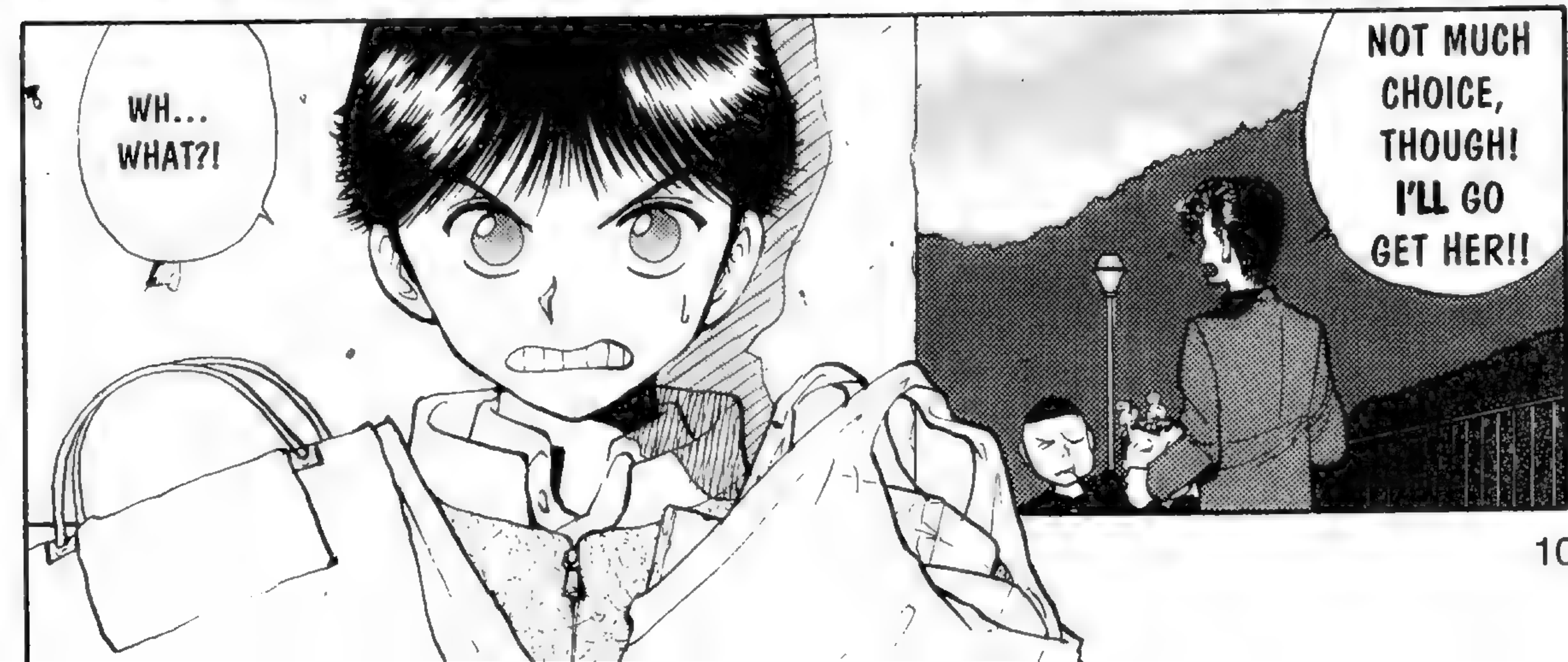
WE TRIED  
TO STOP  
'EM, BUT...

KEIKO'S  
WITH THEM.  
D...DAI  
INSISTED.



BUT THAT  
JOINT IS  
SERIOUS  
TROUBLE...

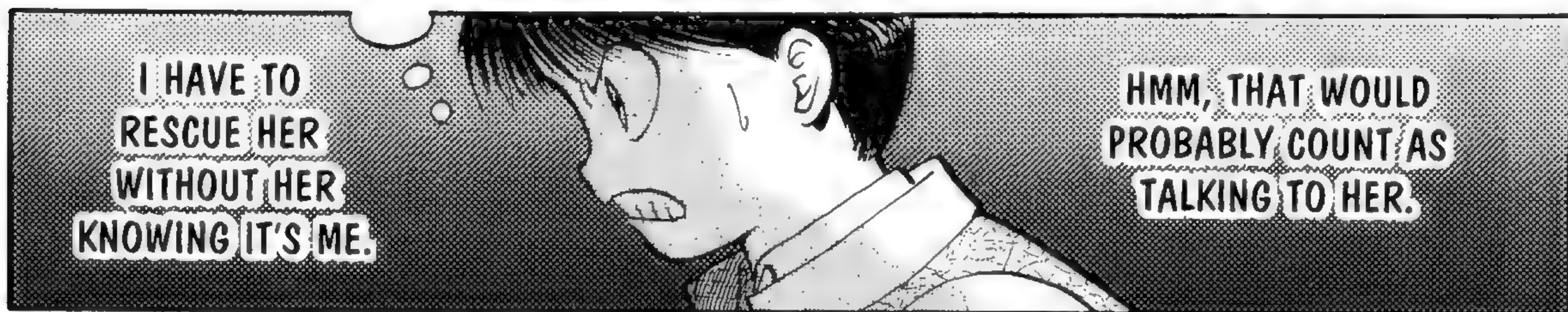
YEAH, OKAY.  
ONLY PLACE THAT  
BUNCH'D TAKE GIRLS  
WOULD BE CAFE  
HALF-DEAD.



WH...  
WHAT?!

NOT MUCH  
CHOICE,  
THOUGH!  
I'LL GO  
GET HER!!

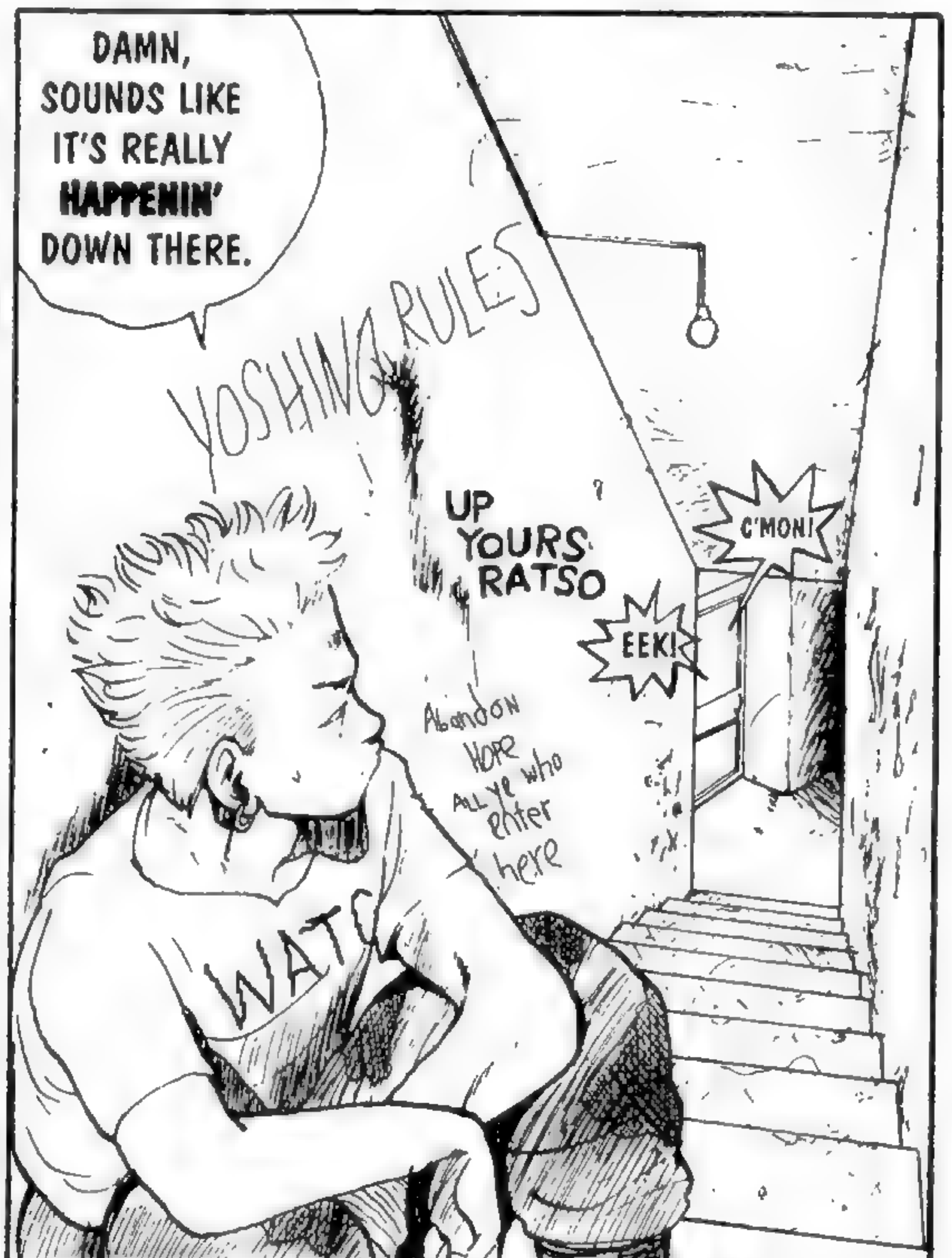
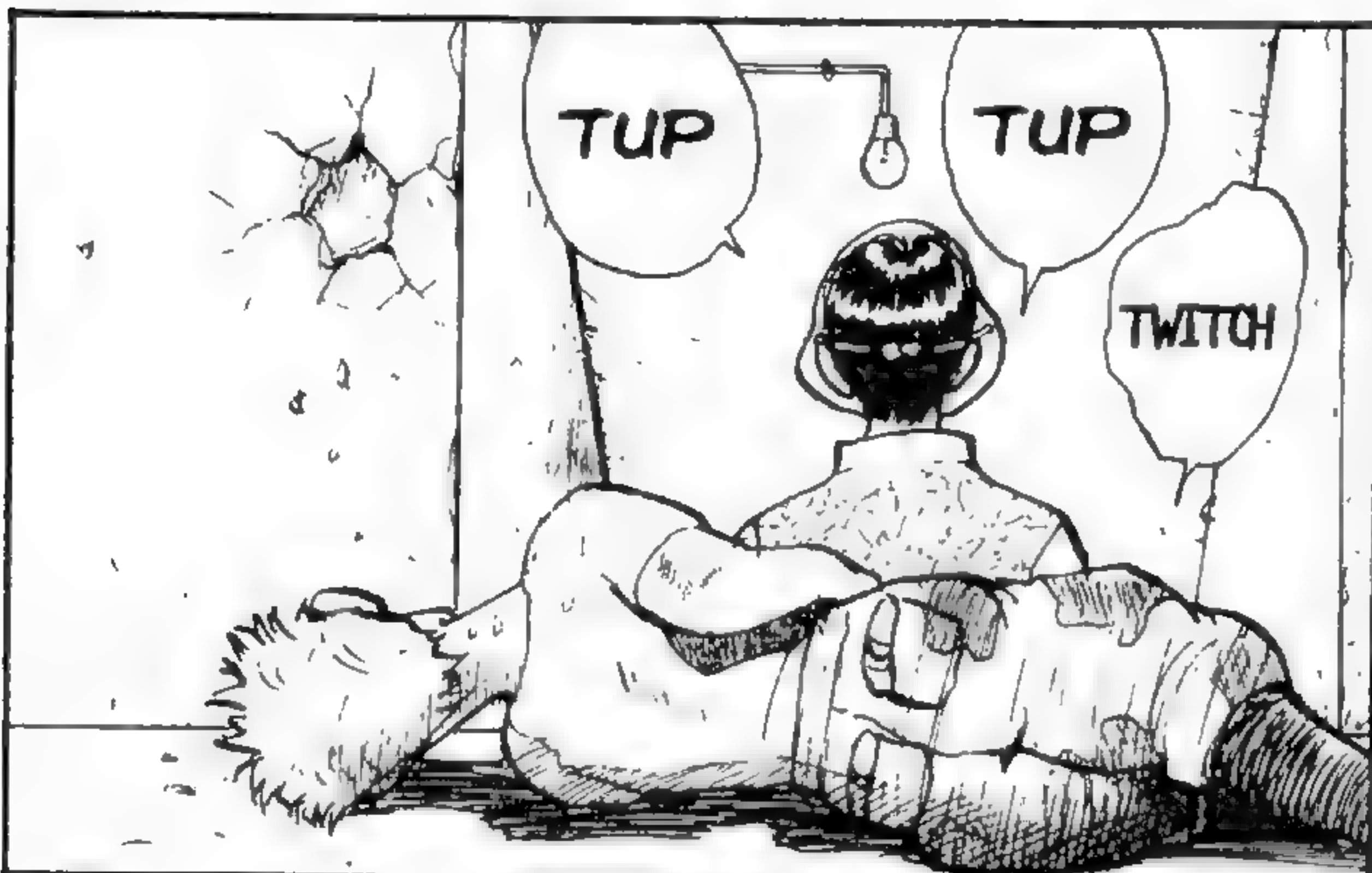








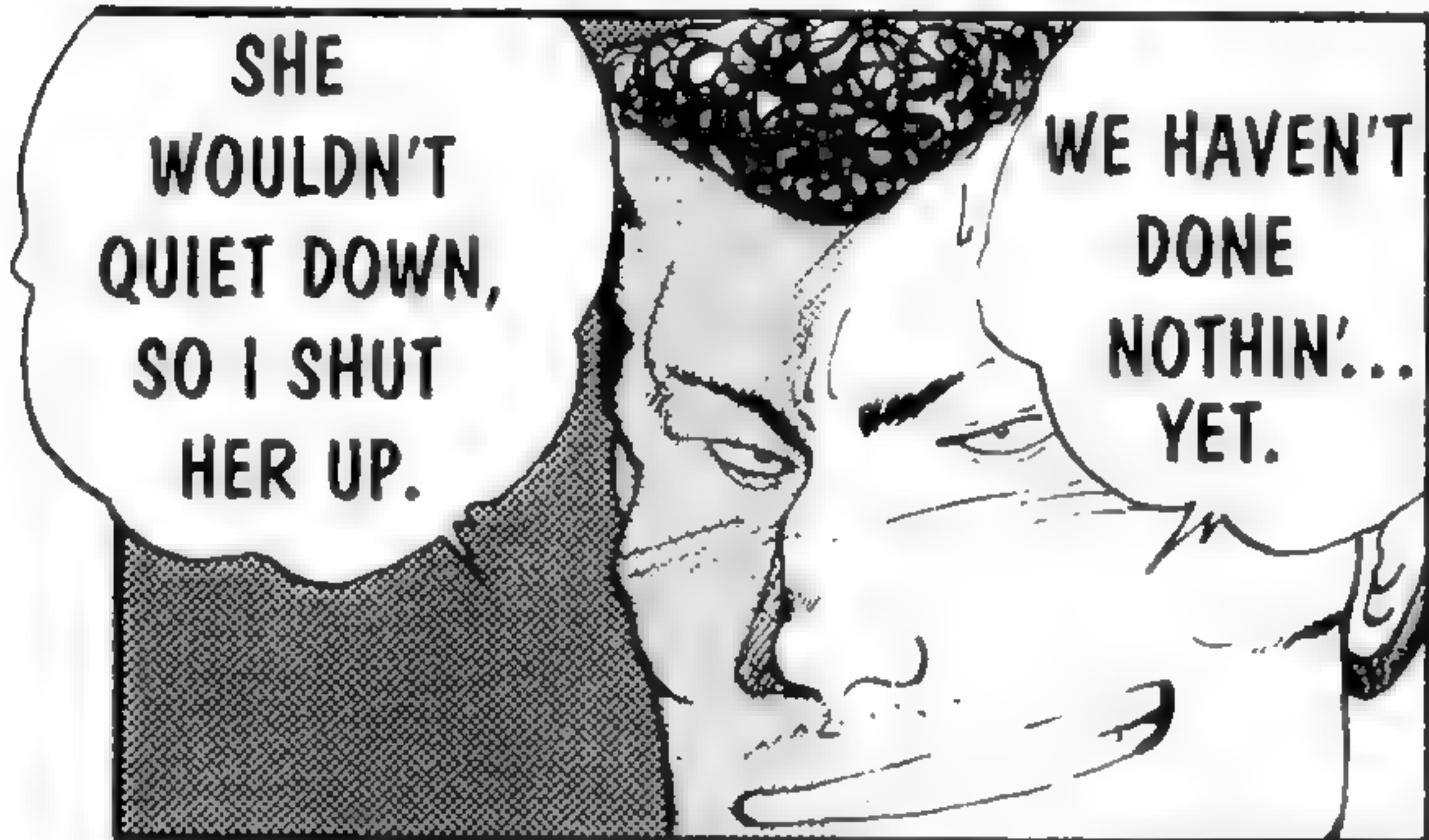




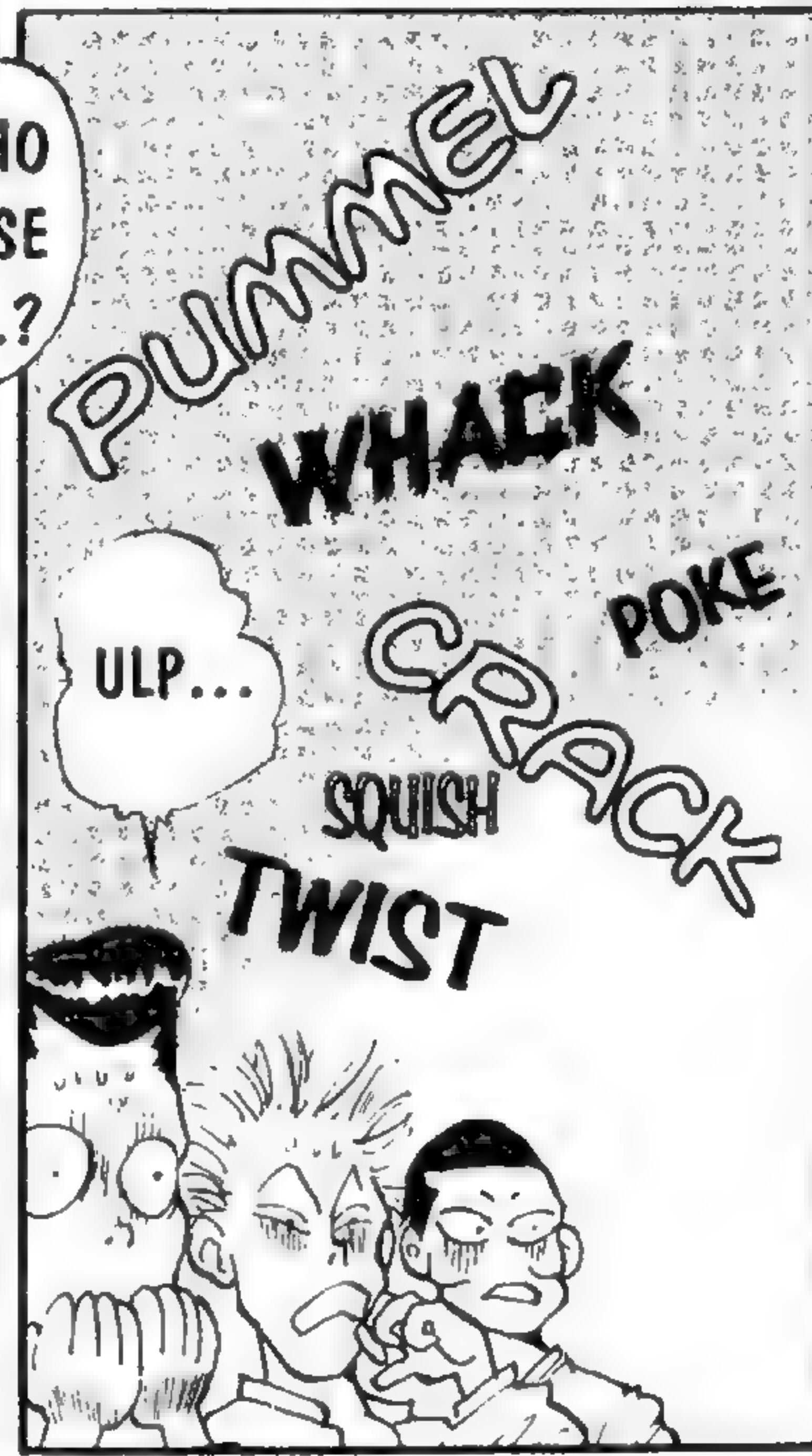
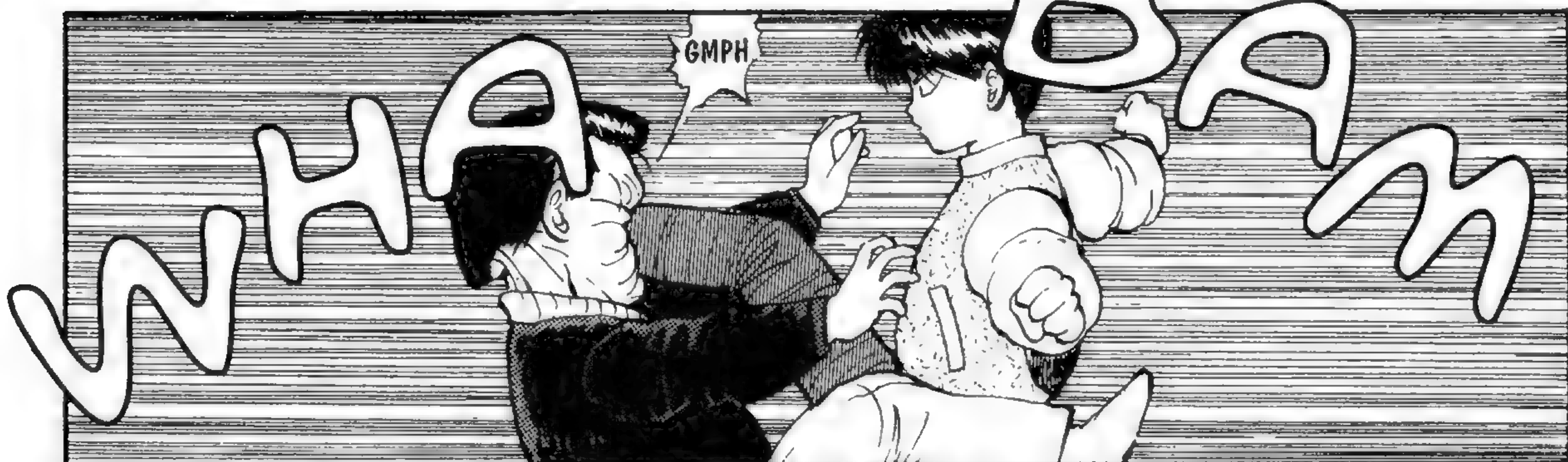












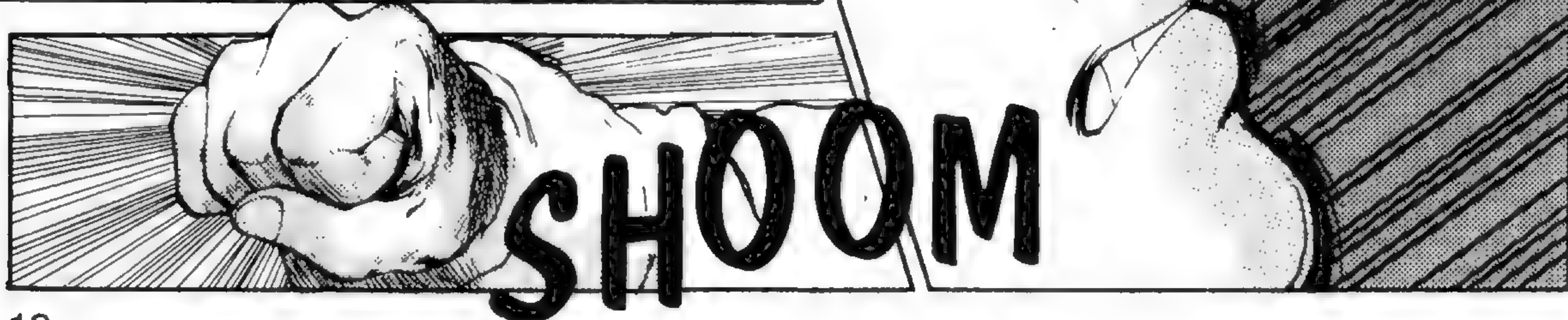




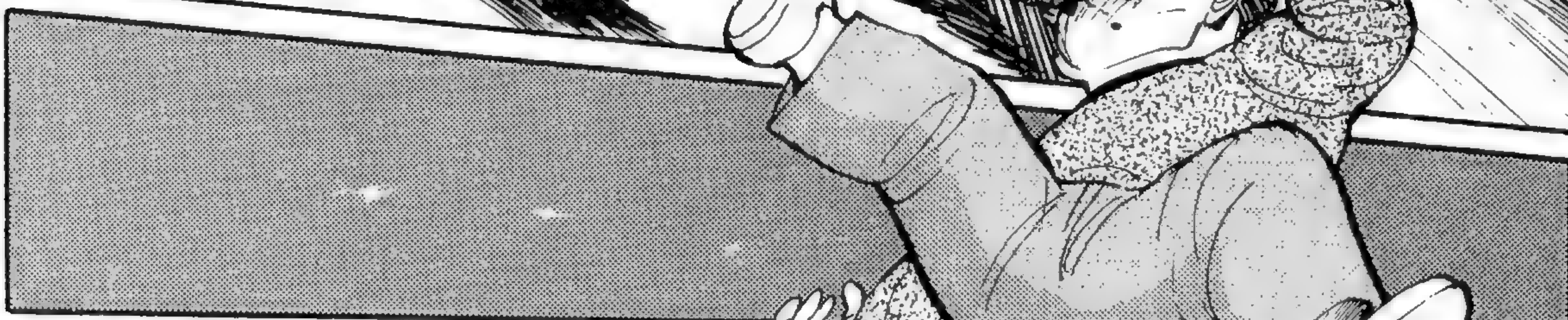




















**BURNING!  
OVER  
THERE!!**

**CRACKLE  
FZZZ**

**FIRE!!**



OH  
GOOD...

IT'S  
OUT...

PHEW



BEFORE IT  
SPREADS!!

GOTTA  
PUT IT  
OUT!!

**WHUMP  
WHUMP**

**ROOSH**



**BUH-BUMP  
BUH-BUMP  
BUH-BUMP**

**THUMP**



**SIGH**

MAN,  
THAT WAS  
CLOSE.



PROBABLY  
A LOT OF  
THEM IN  
THERE...

**TUMP**



TH...  
THIS IS  
IT...

...I'VE REACHED  
THE **ENEMY**  
STRONGHOLD!

**CAFE  
HALF-DEAD**



URAMESHI?!  
WHY?  
HOW?

U...

U...

TOOK YOUR  
SWEET TIME,  
DIDN'T YOU.

?!!

KUWABARA'S  
EYEBALL

WHU?!

BUH-  
BUMP

BUH-  
BUMP

THESE GUYS'LL  
PLAY FOR  
KEEPS. NO  
WAY THIS'LL  
BE EASY.  
I... I MIGHT NOT  
MAKE IT.

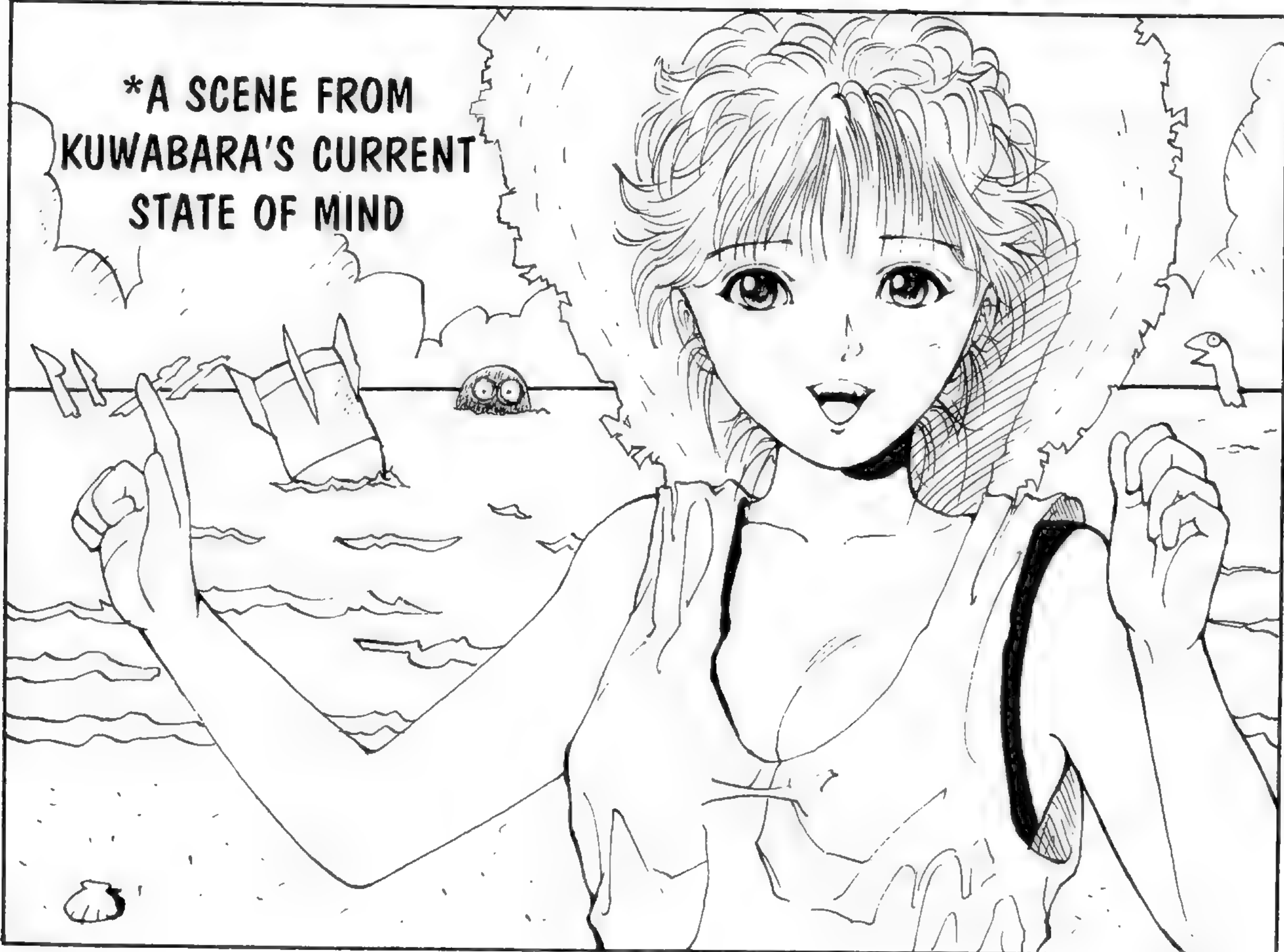
KUWABARA!  
AT LAST!

HM?

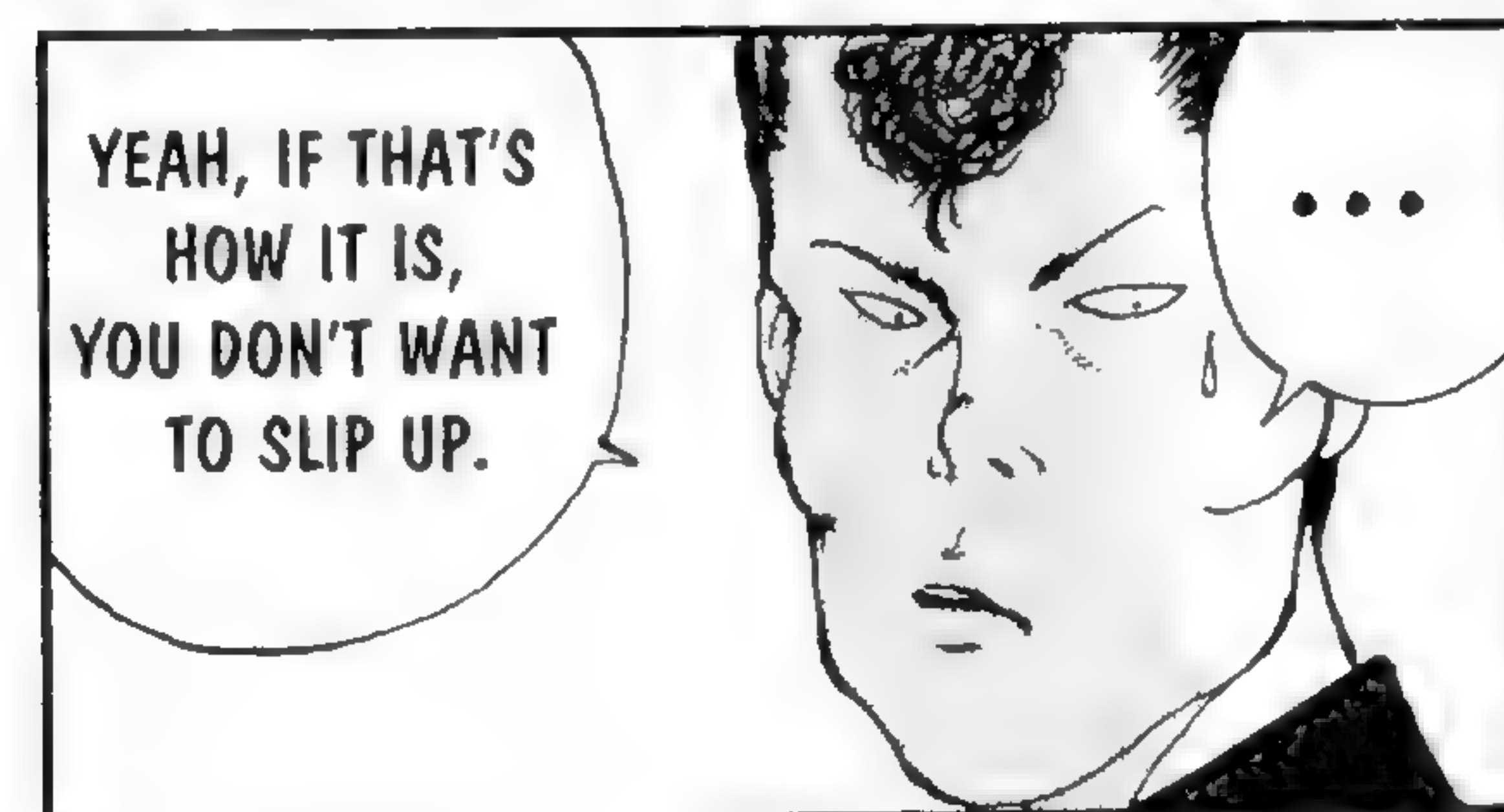
HEH

IF I DON'T,  
AT LEAST  
I CAN TAKE ON  
URAMESHI  
IN HELL.

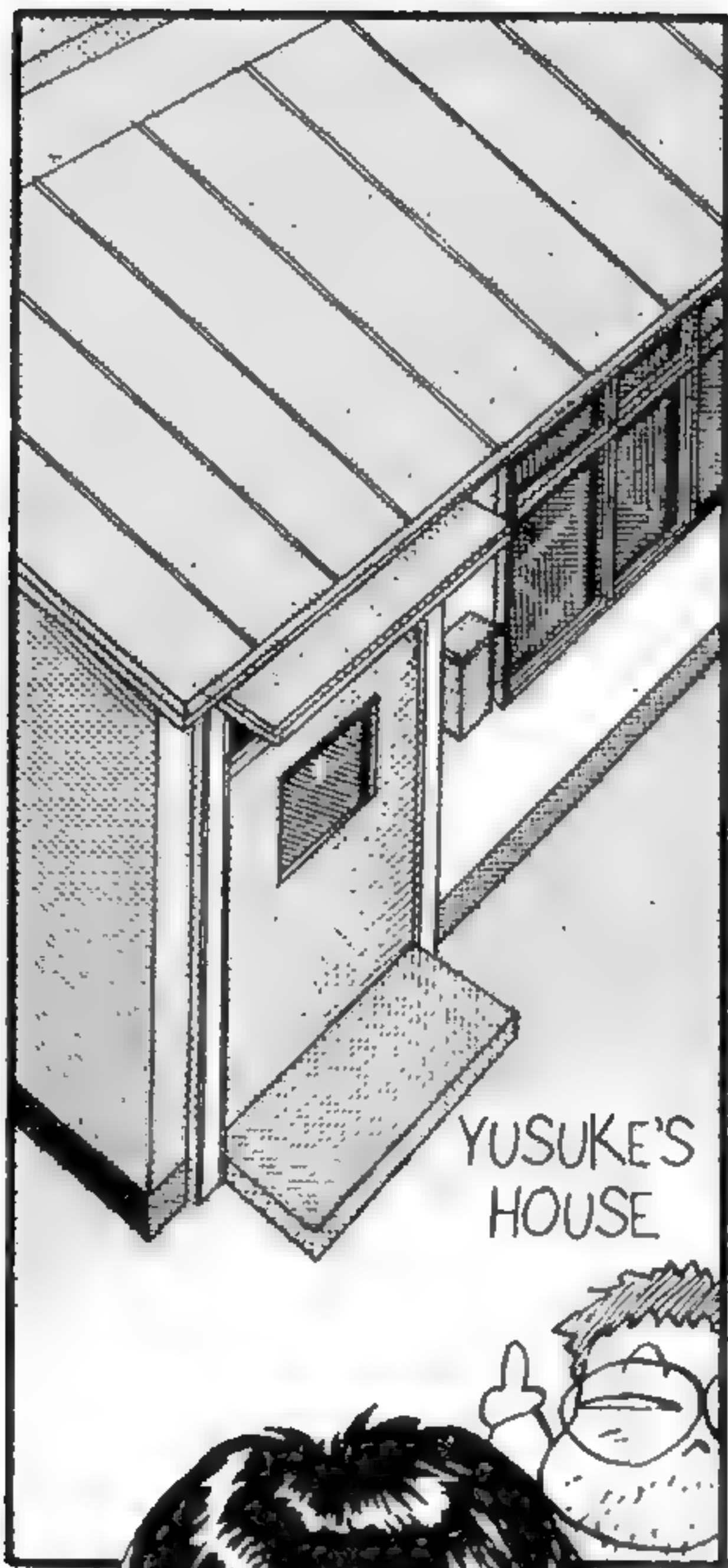
\*A SCENE FROM  
KUWABARA'S CURRENT  
STATE OF MIND











YUSUKE'S HOUSE



NO THANKS!  
ONE OF THESE  
DAYS I'LL BEAT  
YOU FAIR AND  
SQUARE.

THAT ALL?  
I COULD LET  
YOU FIGHT ME  
AND WIN.

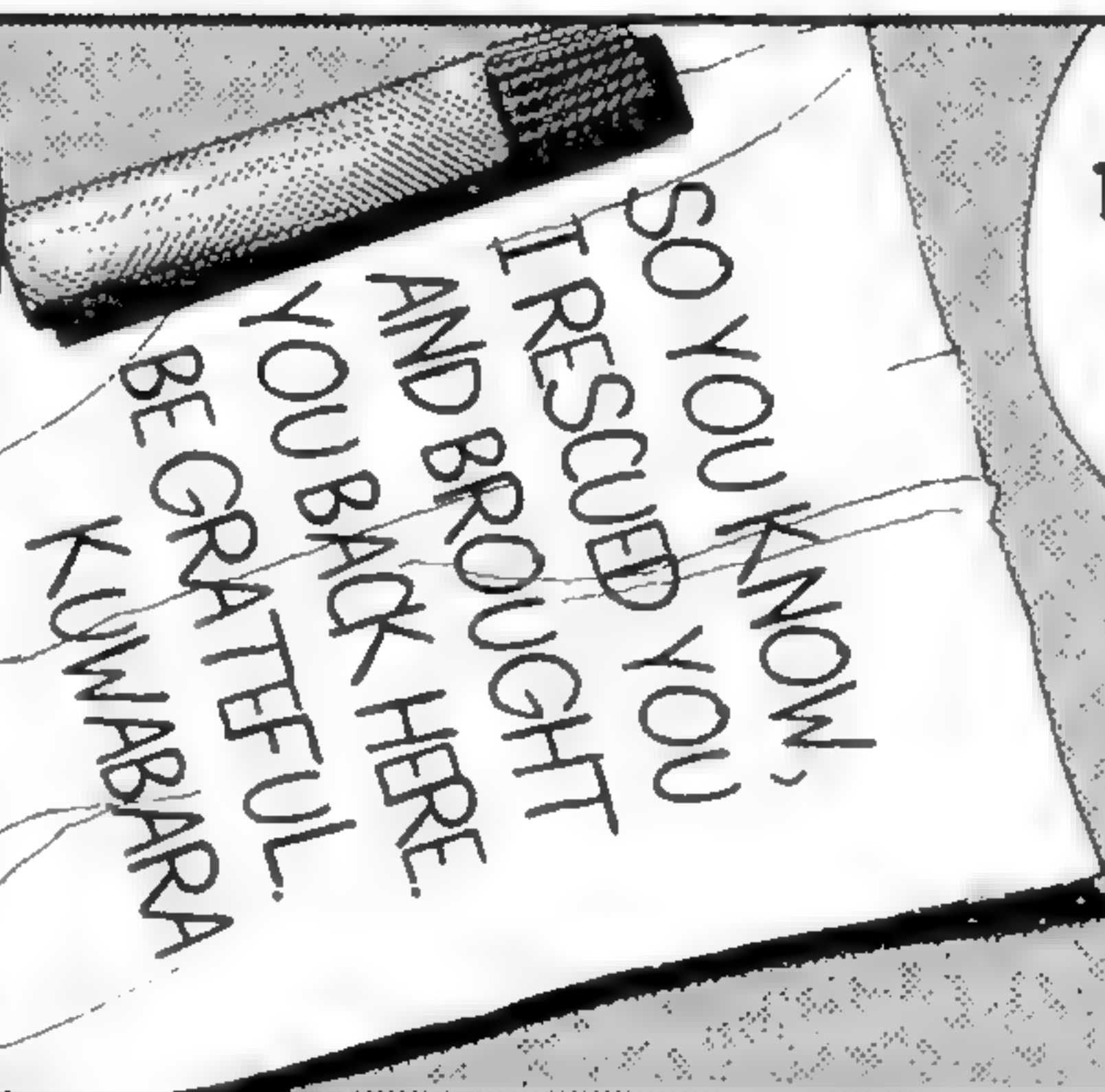


...YOU OWE  
ME A TALL  
COOL ONE ON  
YOUR NEXT  
RETURN.

BUT  
HEY...



FOR ALL  
SHE'LL KNOW,  
I WAS NEVER  
AWAKE.



THERE.  
THAT NOTE  
OUGHTA  
DO IT.



NOW I'LL JUST PRETEND  
TO BE ASLEEP UNTIL  
SHE WAKES UP AND  
GOES HOME.

TIC TOC  
TIC TOC  
TIC TOC



MAN, I'M BORED!  
I DON'T DARE  
GET UP, THOUGH.

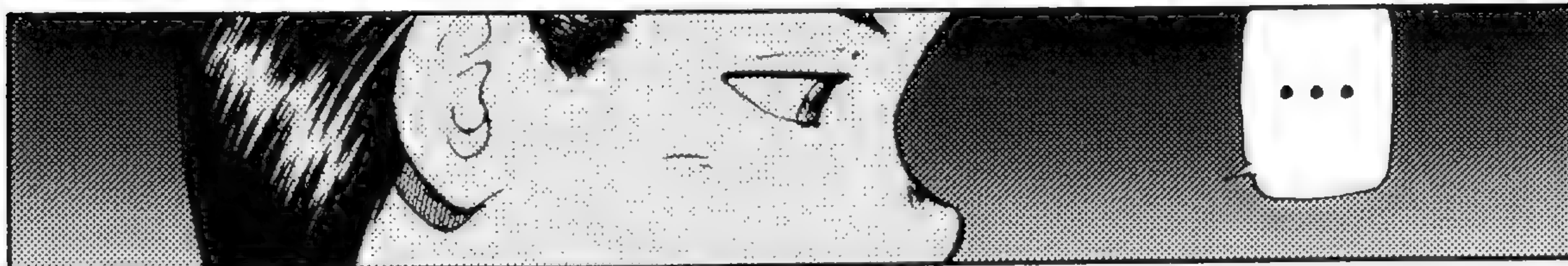
HOW LONG  
IS SHE GONNA  
BE OUT?

ARGH...  
I'M STARTING TO  
GET SLEEPY NOW...

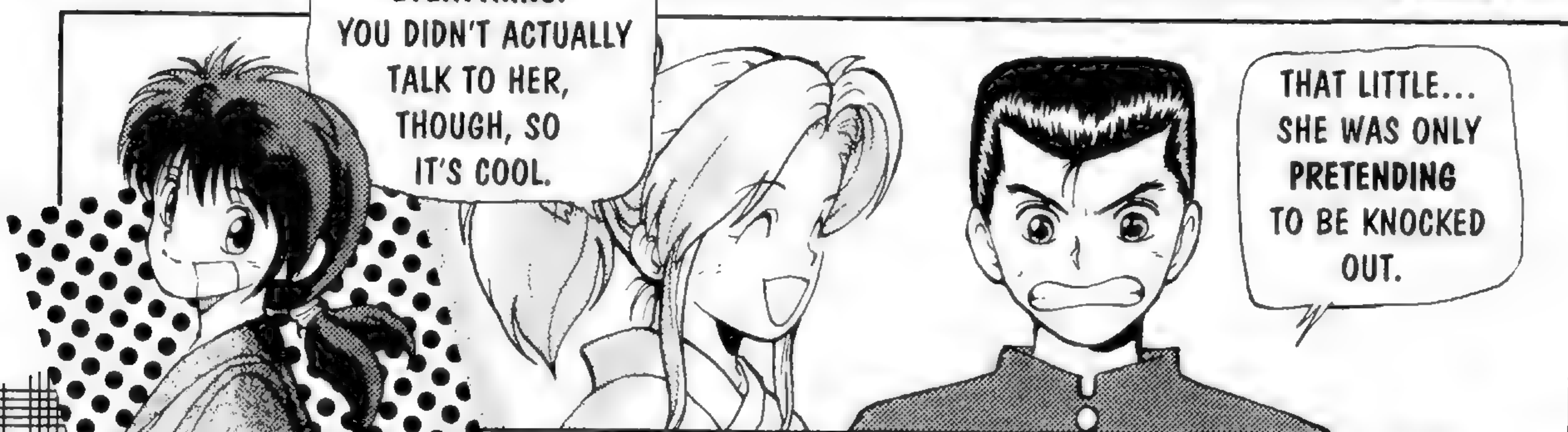


SILENCE















# CHAPTER 10: THE FORBIDDEN GAMES!!

LET'S GO  
CHECK  
HIM OUT.

REMEMBER  
SHOTA, THAT KID  
WE HELPED?  
I WONDER HOW  
HE'S DOING?

\*SHOTA, A ONE-TIME  
VICTIM OF BULLYING,  
APPEARED IN CHAPTER 4.  
HE WAS DEPRESSED OVER  
THE DEATH OF HIS  
BELOVED DOG JIRO,  
BUT PULLED THROUGH  
WITH YUSUKE'S "HELP."

HEY! KEEP  
DRAWING!!

PLEASE SEE  
SHONEN JUMP #3  
FOR DETAILS.

EDITOR

I HAVE,  
THAT'S THE  
PROBLEM...

WHAT?  
JUST LOOK  
AT HIM!

HMM,  
I DON'T  
KNOW.

...  
HE SEEMS  
TO BE DOING  
OKAY.



...ALWAYS  
A CAUSE FOR  
CONCERN.

I SEE A WEIRD  
**SHADOW**  
BEHIND HIM,  
AND THAT'S...

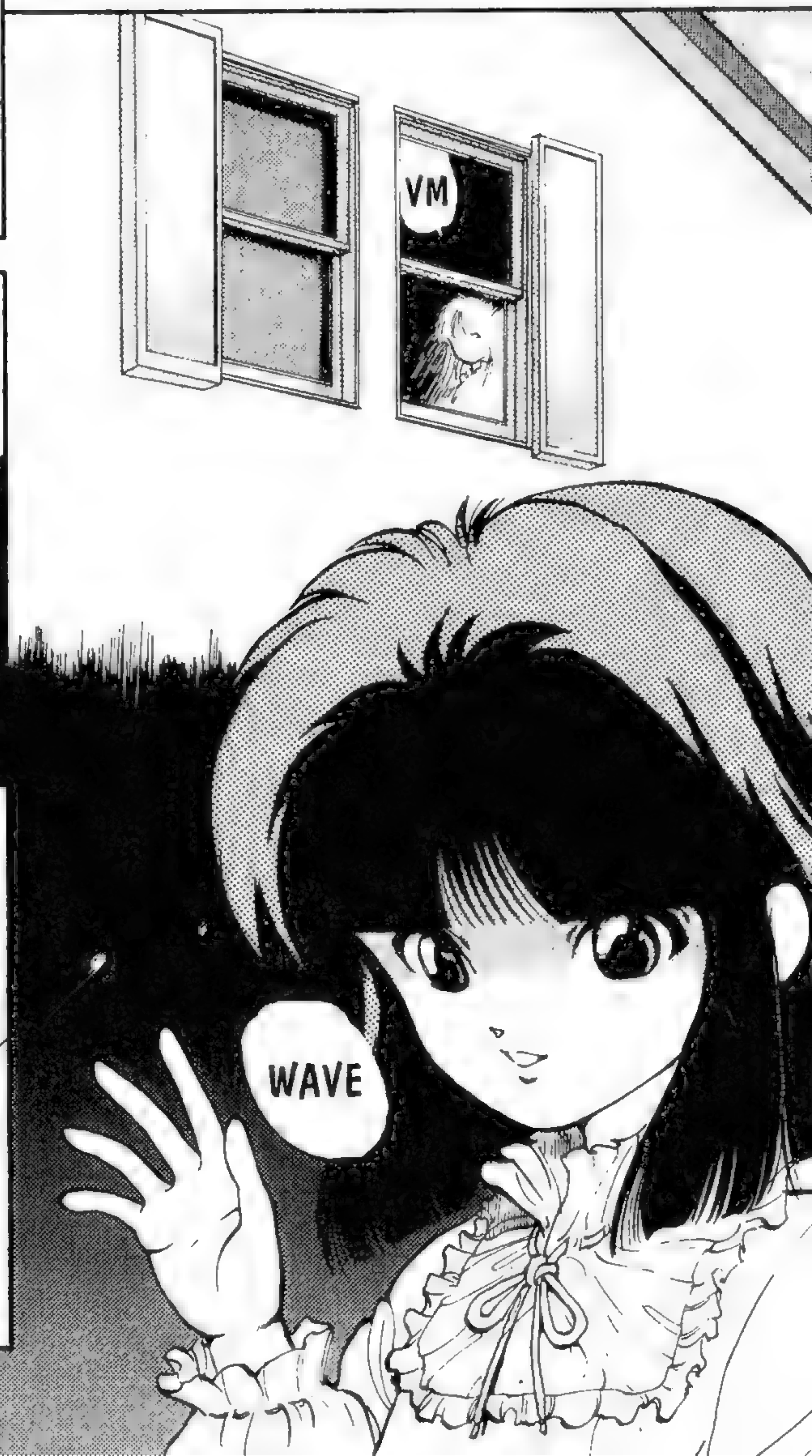
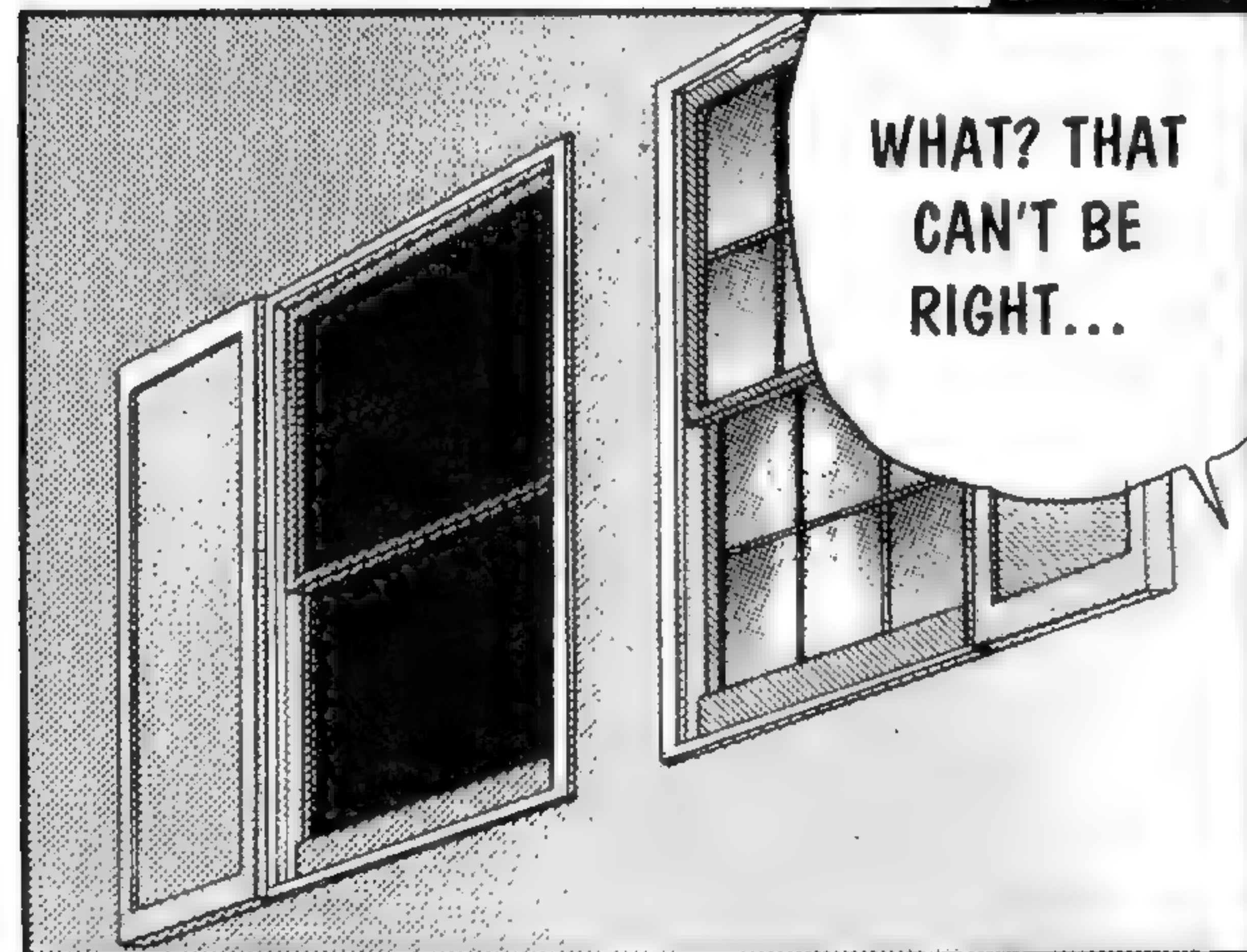
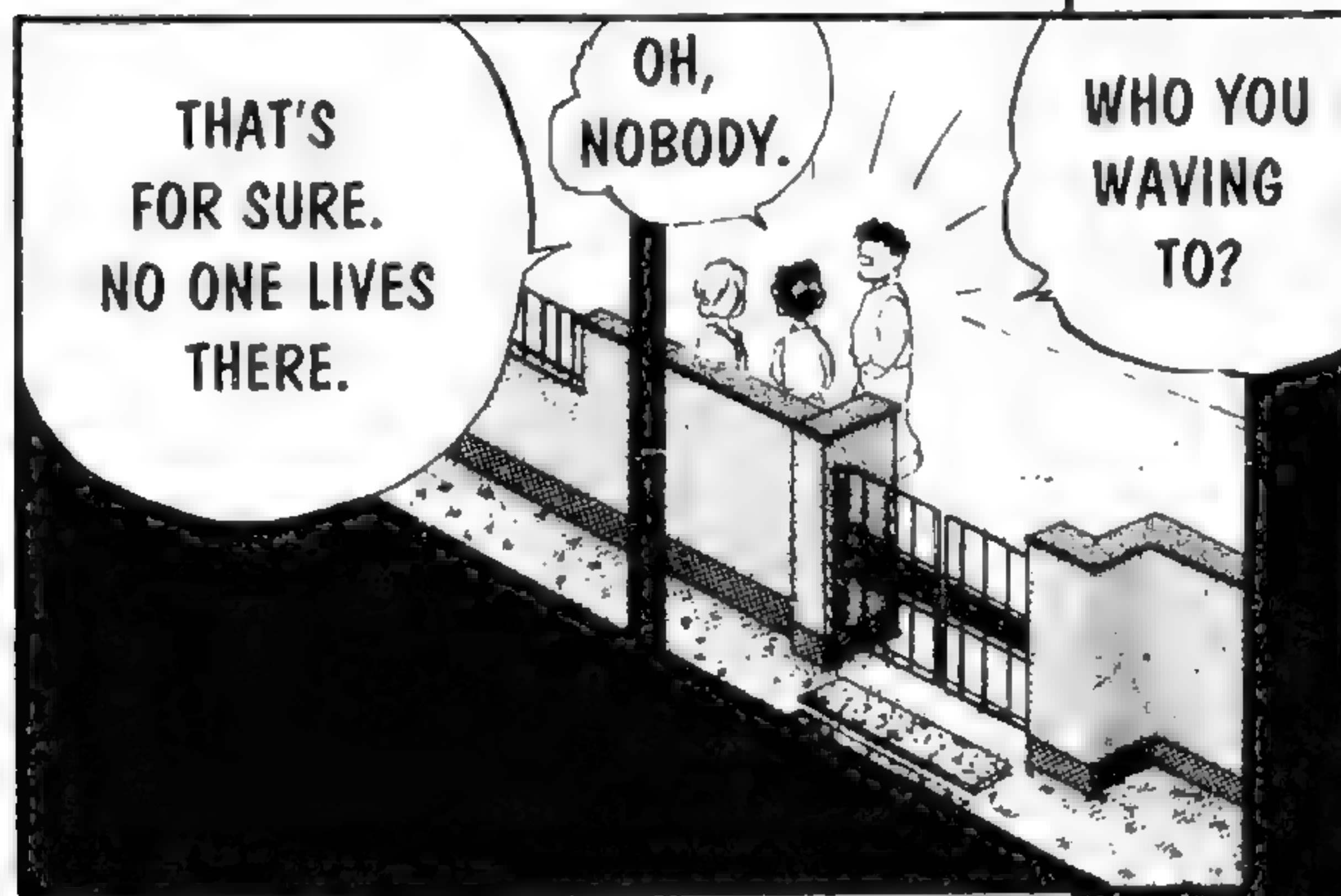






**CHAPTER 10:**  
**THE FORBIDDEN GAMES!!**







NOT EXACTLY...  
IT'S MORE THAT  
THE GHOST  
LIKES HIM.

HE'S BEEN  
POSSESSED  
BY A GHOST?!

VERY  
PERCEPTIVE.

HE DOESN'T  
SEE IT THAT WAY,  
IF THAT GOOFY  
LOOK ON HIS FACE  
WAS ANY  
INDICATION.

HE'S A  
SUCKER FOR  
CHICKS,  
HUH?

SHOTA'S FOUND  
COURAGE TO DEAL  
WITH LIFE, BUT  
NOW HE'S  
THREATENED FROM  
THE AFTERLIFE.

GHOSTS TEND  
TO LOOK TO  
NICE KIDS FOR  
EMPATHY.

WREE  
WREE  
WREE  
WREE

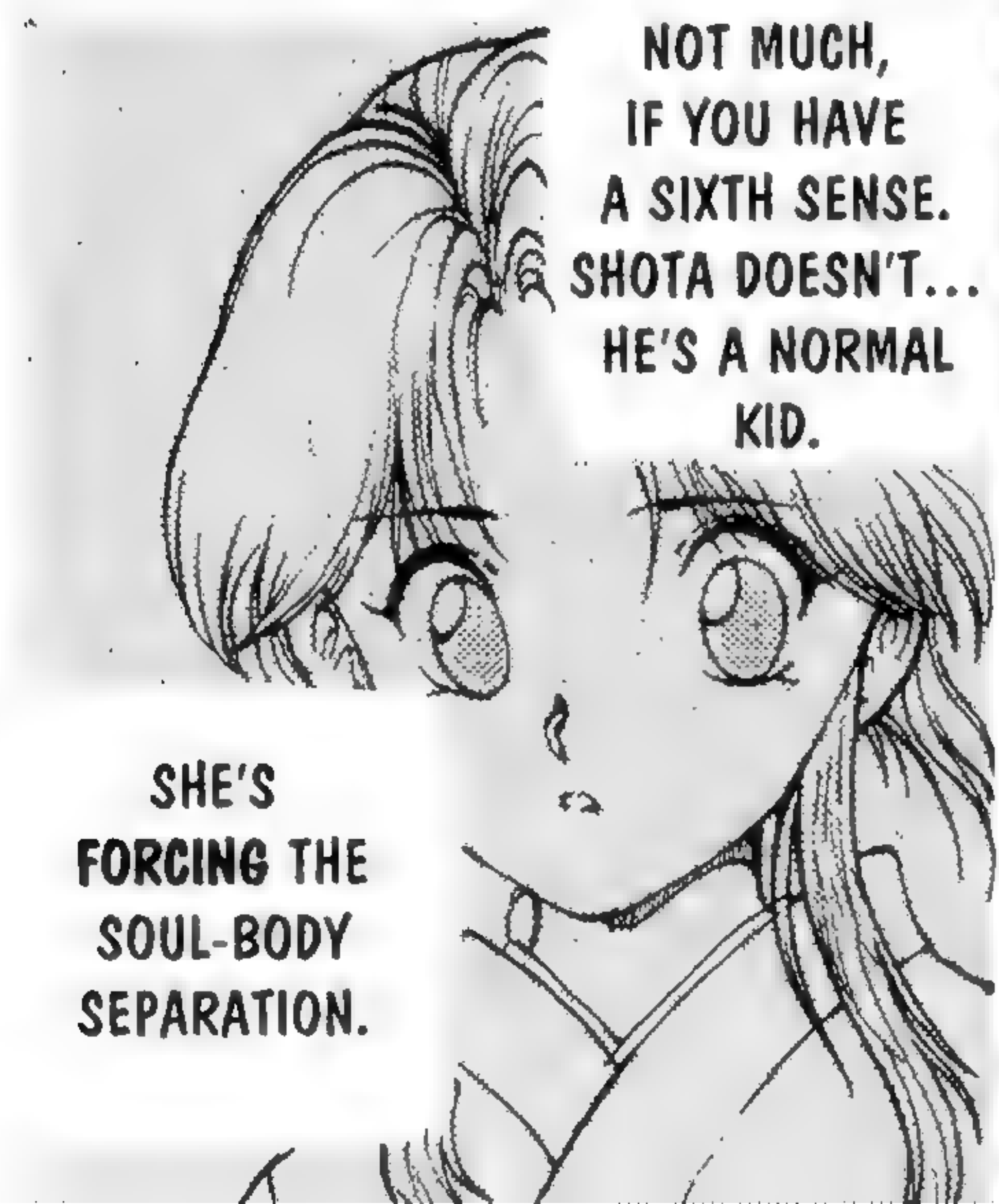
SHOTA...

SHOTA,  
LET'S  
PLAY.

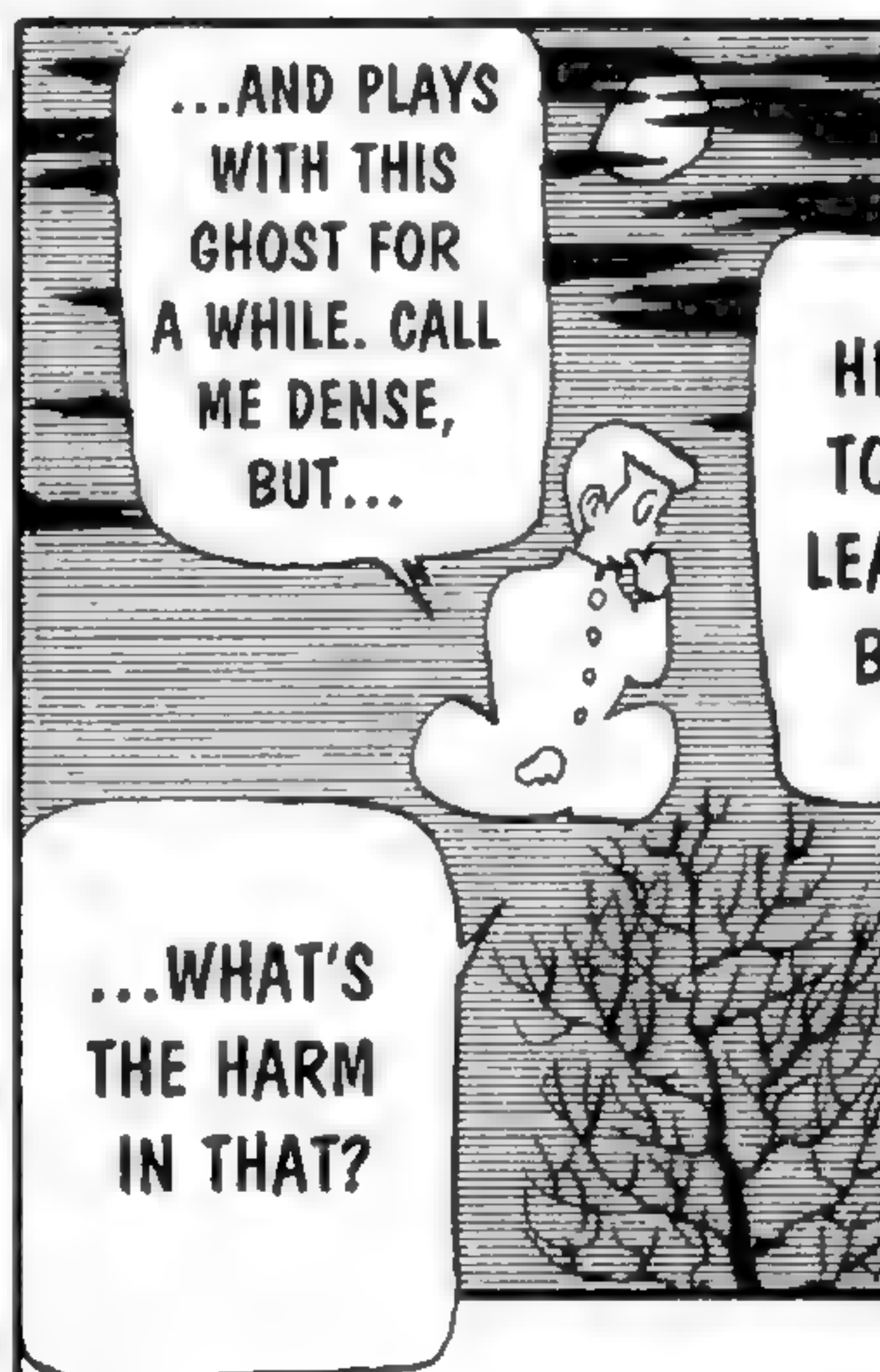
COME  
ON...

WREE





NOT MUCH,  
IF YOU HAVE  
A SIXTH SENSE.  
SHOTA DOESN'T...  
HE'S A NORMAL  
KID.





AND IT'S DAMAGING HIM, AS  
THOUGH HIS BODY'S SLOWLY BEING  
CUT UP BY A KNIFE THAT CAUSES  
NO PAIN. IF THIS CONTINUES,  
HIS BODY'S GOING TO FAIL.



SOMETIMES IT'S  
SOMETHING THE  
VICTIM SEES  
AS HARMLESS,  
EVEN NICE.



THAT'S WHAT  
WE'RE HERE FOR,  
TO PUT A STOP  
TO THINGS LIKE  
THIS.

OF  
COURSE.



THEN WE  
GOTTA DO  
SOMETHING!!



GO 'WAY!  
WE'RE JUST  
HAVING FUN.

HUH?  
WHO ARE  
YOU?

\*SHOTA DOESN'T KNOW YUSUKE.

HE'S  
PERISHABLE  
GOODS!

GOT  
THAT?!

LISTEN  
GIRLIE, SHOTA  
DOESN'T  
BELONG HERE!

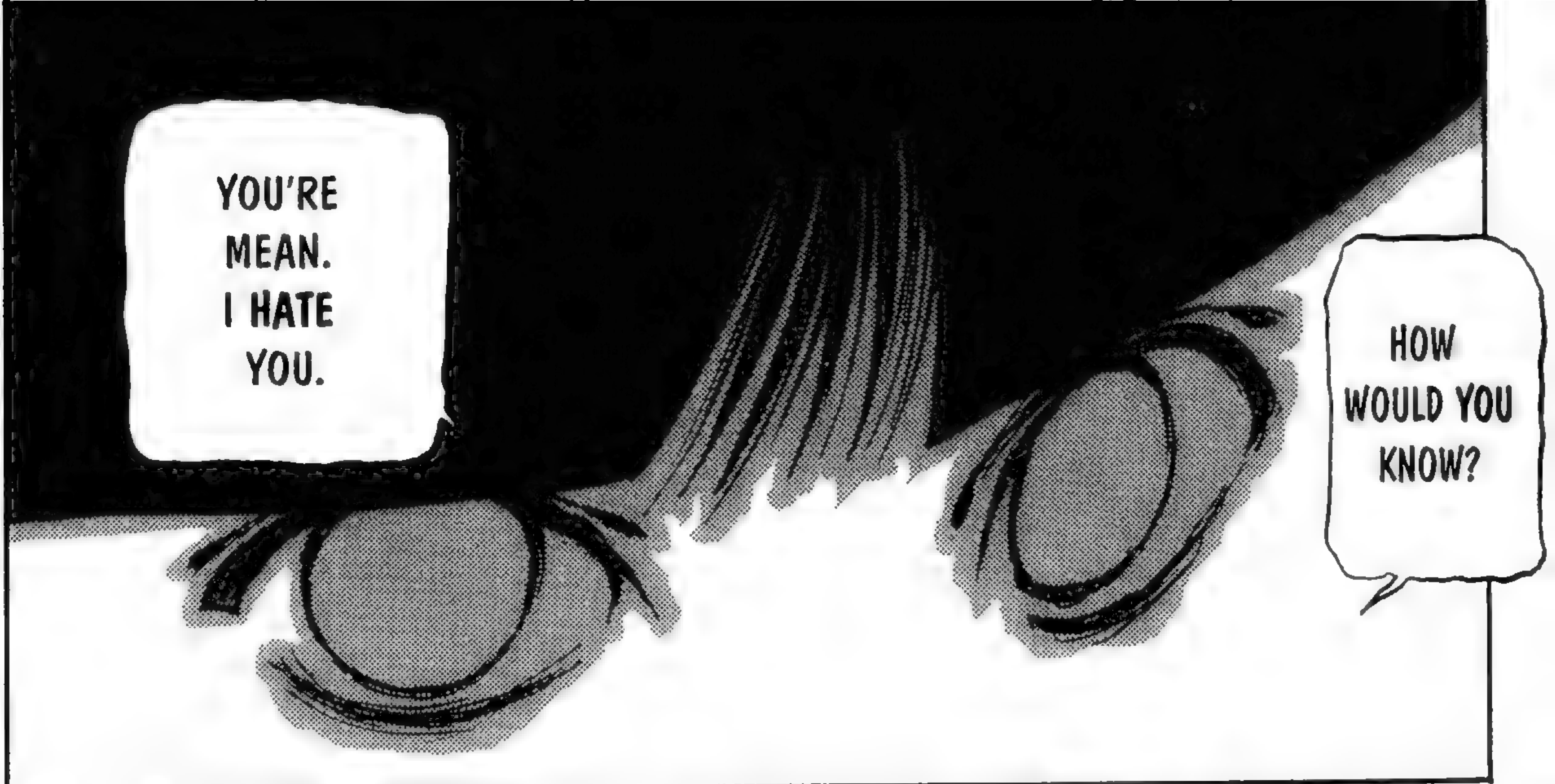


BAP  
GET BACK  
TO YOUR  
BODY,  
BUDDY.

HEY,  
SHOTA!!







YOU'RE  
MEAN.  
I HATE  
YOU.

HOW  
WOULD YOU  
KNOW?



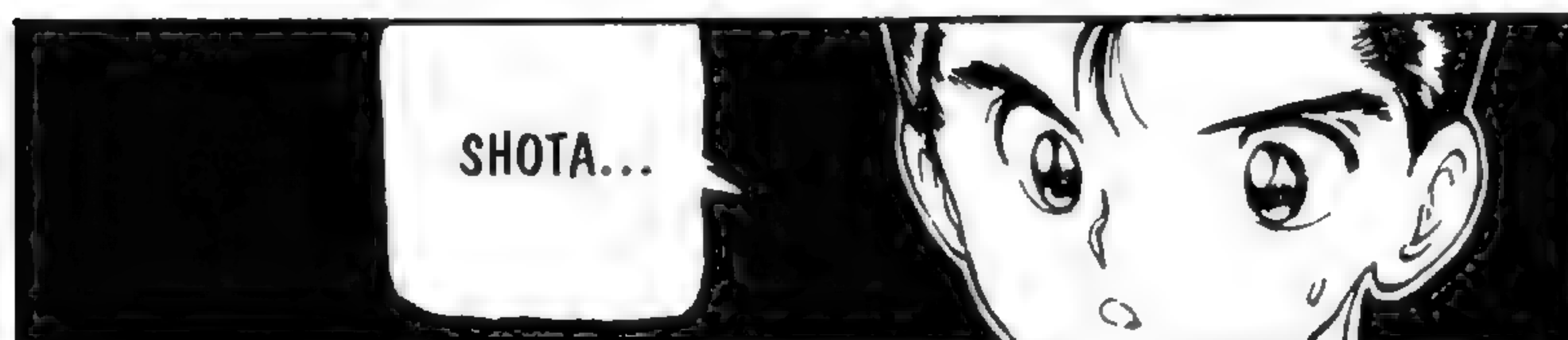
SHE DOESN'T  
HAVE ANYONE  
ELSE TO PLAY  
WITH.

BAP

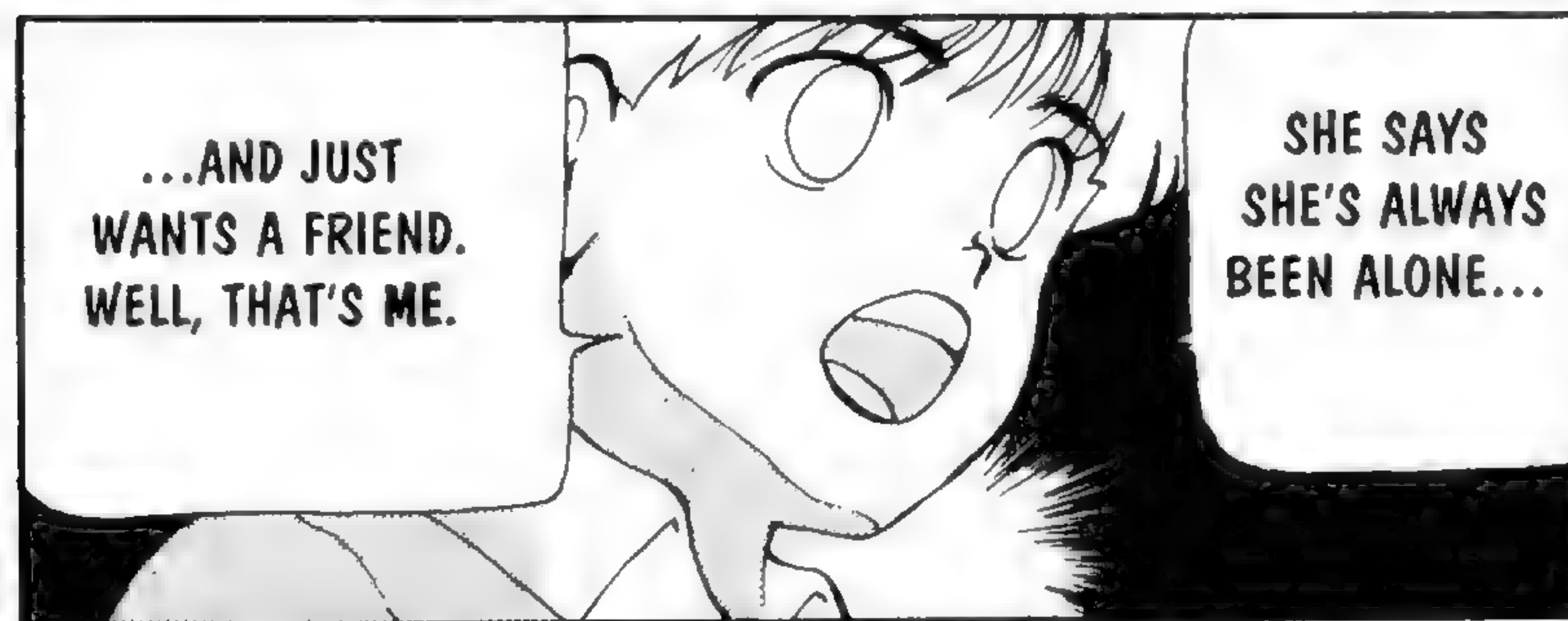
NO,  
I'M STAYING  
WITH SAYAKA!



FINE, HATE  
ME ALL YOU  
WANT!



SHOTA...



...AND JUST  
WANTS A FRIEND.  
WELL, THAT'S ME.

SHE SAYS  
SHE'S ALWAYS  
BEEN ALONE...

C'MON  
SHOTA,  
LET'S GO!!



LEAVE US  
ALONE.

GO  
AWAY!!



...BUT IF YOU  
KEEP THIS UP,  
YOUR BODY...

LOOK, IT'S  
GREAT YOU'RE  
HER FRIEND...

CRACKLE









THAT'S NOT  
THE ISSUE.

AND THIS  
WAS JUST  
A LITTLE  
GIRL...

MAN...I'VE  
NEVER LOST A FIGHT  
BEFORE, EVEN WHEN  
I'VE BEEN CAUGHT  
OFF GUARD.



BUT OUR  
PROBLEM  
IS SHOTA.

THEIR  
EMOTIONS ARE  
THE SOURCE OF  
THEIR POWER.

THE POWER  
OF GHOSTS  
IS IN THEIR  
FEELINGS,  
NOT THEIR  
SIZE.



NO, MOM,  
I'M FINE.

ARE YOU FEELING  
OKAY, SHOTA?  
YOU'RE LOOKING  
A LITTLE THIN.



I'M FINE,  
I'M FINE!

LET ME SEE  
IF YOU HAVE  
A FEVER! DO  
YOU HURT  
ANYWHERE?

YOU ARE  
SICK!!



SHOTA!!

STAGGER



OH...

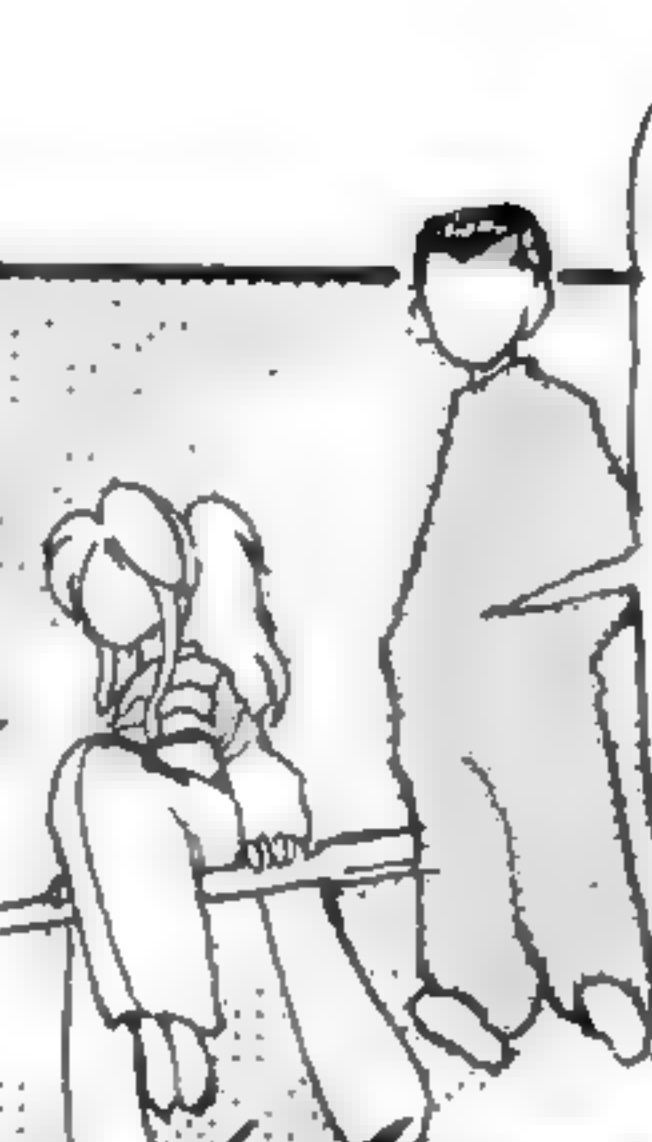




AT THIS RATE,  
**NOTHING** WILL STOP  
SAYAKA DRAGGING  
HIM WHOLLY INTO  
THE SPIRIT WORLD.

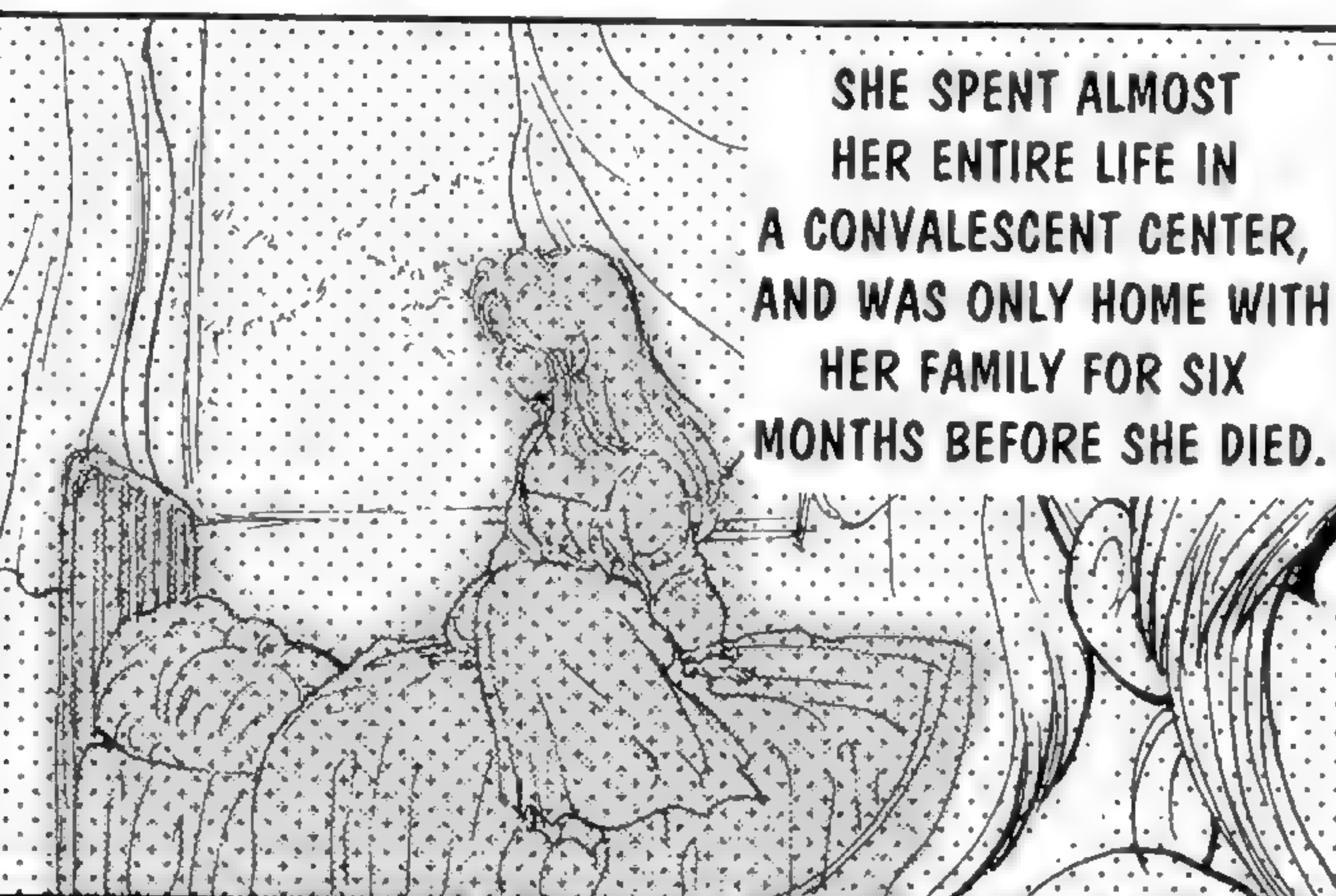
ARE HER  
FEELINGS THAT  
STRONG?

I DOUBT HE  
REMEMBERS HIS  
NIGHTLY ROMPS,  
AND HIS NEW  
CONFIDENCE...



THE TROUBLE IS  
SHOTA DOESN'T  
KNOW WHAT'S  
HAPPENING.

...IS BLINDING  
HIM TO HIS  
GROWING BODILY  
WEAKNESS.



SHE SPENT ALMOST  
HER ENTIRE LIFE IN  
A CONVALESCENT CENTER,  
AND WAS ONLY HOME WITH  
HER FAMILY FOR SIX  
MONTHS BEFORE SHE DIED.



I CHECKED  
HER OUT...

...AND SHE WAS  
A TERRIBLY  
LONELY LITTLE  
GIRL.



LUCKY  
THEM.

WHERE ARE  
MOMMY AND  
DADDY?

HER PARENTS DIDN'T KNOW  
HOW TO COPE WITH THEIR  
SICK DAUGHTER AND WERE  
HARDLY EVER HOME.



WITH  
FRIENDS,  
TOO...

I WISH  
I COULD  
RUN AND  
PLAY...



THEY'RE  
BUSY,  
WORKIN'  
LATE THEY  
SAID.



HA  
HA  
HA

HOUSEKEEPER

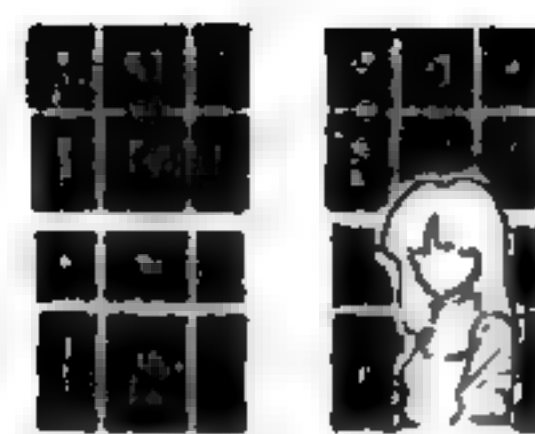




YEAH, BECAUSE  
SIXTH SENSE  
OR NOT, HE'S  
A SENSITIVE  
KID...

...AND THAT'S  
HOW THAT GIRL  
HOOKED HIM,  
TO DRAG HIM  
INTO HEAVEN!

...AND THAT'S  
WHERE SHOTA  
SPOTTED HER.

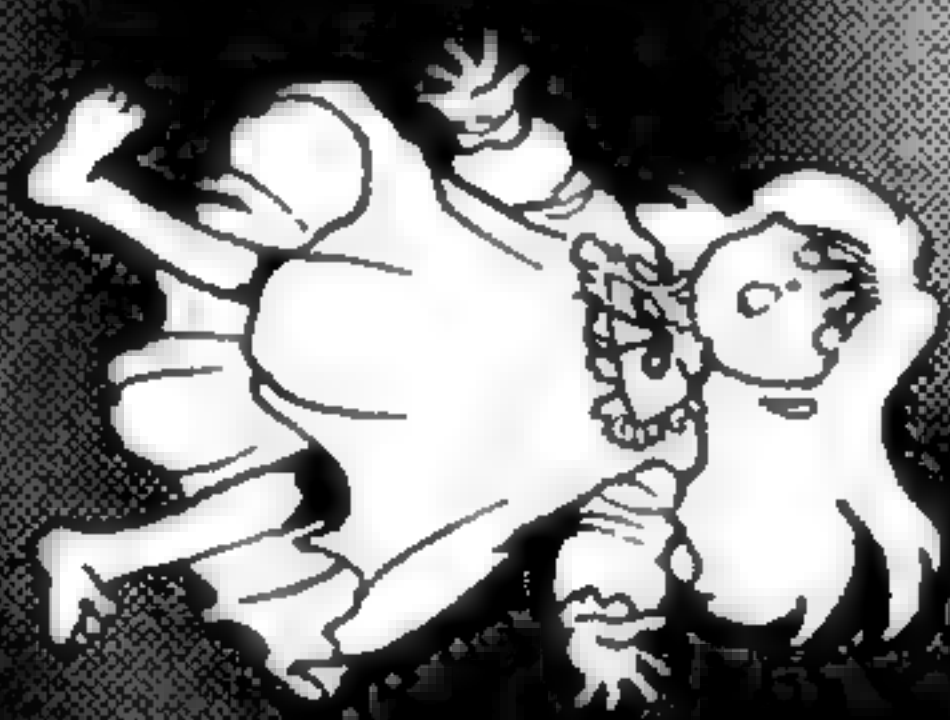


AFTER SHE PASSED  
AWAY SHE STAYED  
BY THAT WINDOW,  
WISHING FOR WHAT  
SHE'D NEVER HAD...



SAYAKA'S LONGINGS HAVE INTENSIFIED TO TAKE ON  
TRACES OF RESENTMENT AND EVIL. SHE'S **DANGEROUS**.  
SHE ONLY WANTS A FRIEND, BUT THAT'S CAUSING HER TO DRAG  
SOMEONE ELSE DOWN WITH HER. IF THEY TRY TO ENTER HEAVEN  
LIKE THAT, THEY'LL BE LOST TO A REALM OF DARKNESS,  
A PURGATORY OF SOULS WHERE NO LIGHT EVER  
SHINES THROUGH. I WOULD THINK IT'S WORSE THAN HELL.

THE DANGER'S  
MORE SERIOUS  
THAN THAT!



...

ONE WRONG MOVE,  
AND YOU MIGHT  
GET PULLED IN  
WITH THEM!

HONESTLY,  
HOW WOULD YOU  
BE ABLE TO STOP  
HER AT THIS  
POINT?

YOU'VE  
EXPERIENCED  
THE POWER  
SPAWNED BY HER  
LONELINESS...

...WE HAVE  
TO STOP  
THEM AT  
ALL COSTS!!

IN THAT  
CASE...







## BOTAN

BIRTHDAY: UNKNOWN  
AGE: UNKNOWN  
BLOOD TYPE: UNKNOWN  
HOBBY: FLOATING AROUND  
IN THE SKY

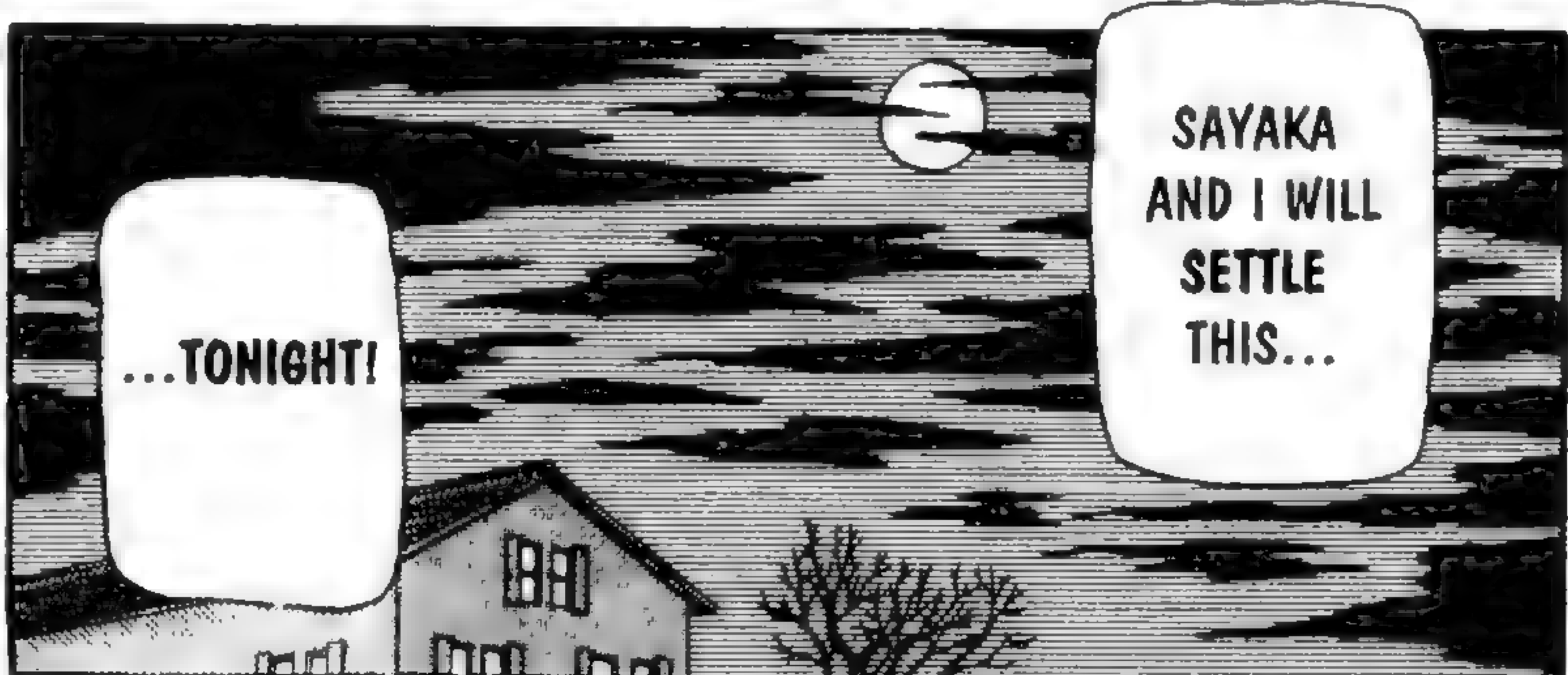


I PROMISED  
JIRO I'D LOOK  
AFTER SHOTA,  
AND I WILL!

LIKE YOU SAID,  
"THAT'S NOT  
THE ISSUE!"



YUSUKE  
...



...TONIGHT!

SAYAKA  
AND I WILL  
SETTLE  
THIS...



WHAT?

SAY,  
SHOTA?

CAN  
I ASK YOU  
A FAVOR?



I'M SCARED  
TO GO BY  
MYSELF...

HEAVEN.

FAR  
AWAY...?

WHEN I DO,  
WILL YOU COME  
WITH ME?

SOON I MUST  
GO SOMEPLACE  
VERY FAR  
AWAY.

...BUT I WON'T  
BE IF WE GO  
TOGETHER.

HUH?

...

YOU'LL COME  
WITH ME,  
RIGHT?!

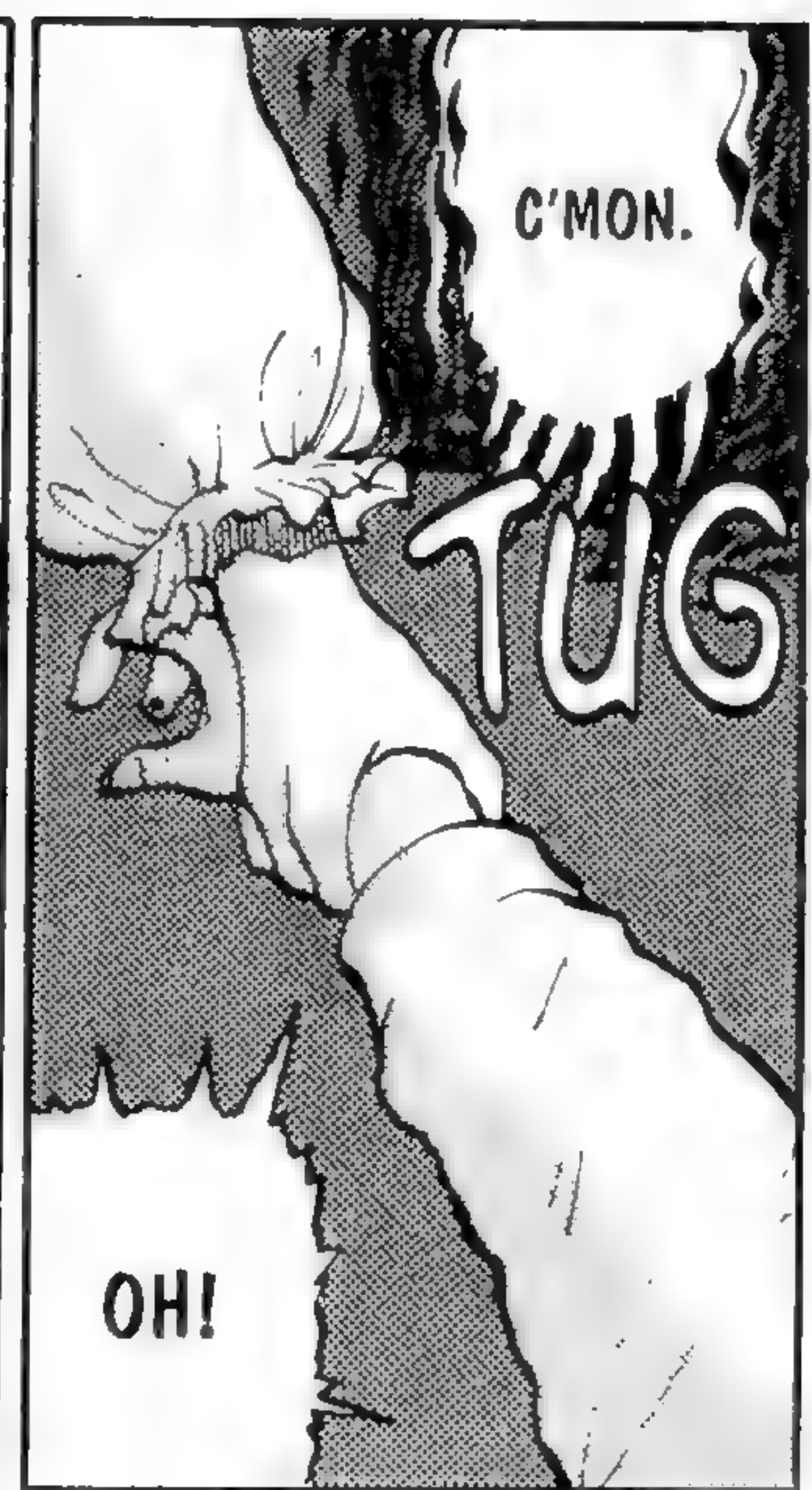
C'MON!!

UM...

...WAIT  
A MINUTE  
...

RMBL









...YOU'LL ONLY GET LOST, PROBABLY FOR ALL TIME!!

SAYAKA, IF YOU TRY TO GET TO HEAVEN NOW...

SO JUST LET GO OF SHOTA.



THAT'S RIGHT!!



...I'LL STOP HIM! AND I WON'T HOLD BACK!

IF THAT MEAN BOY TRIES TO STOP ME...

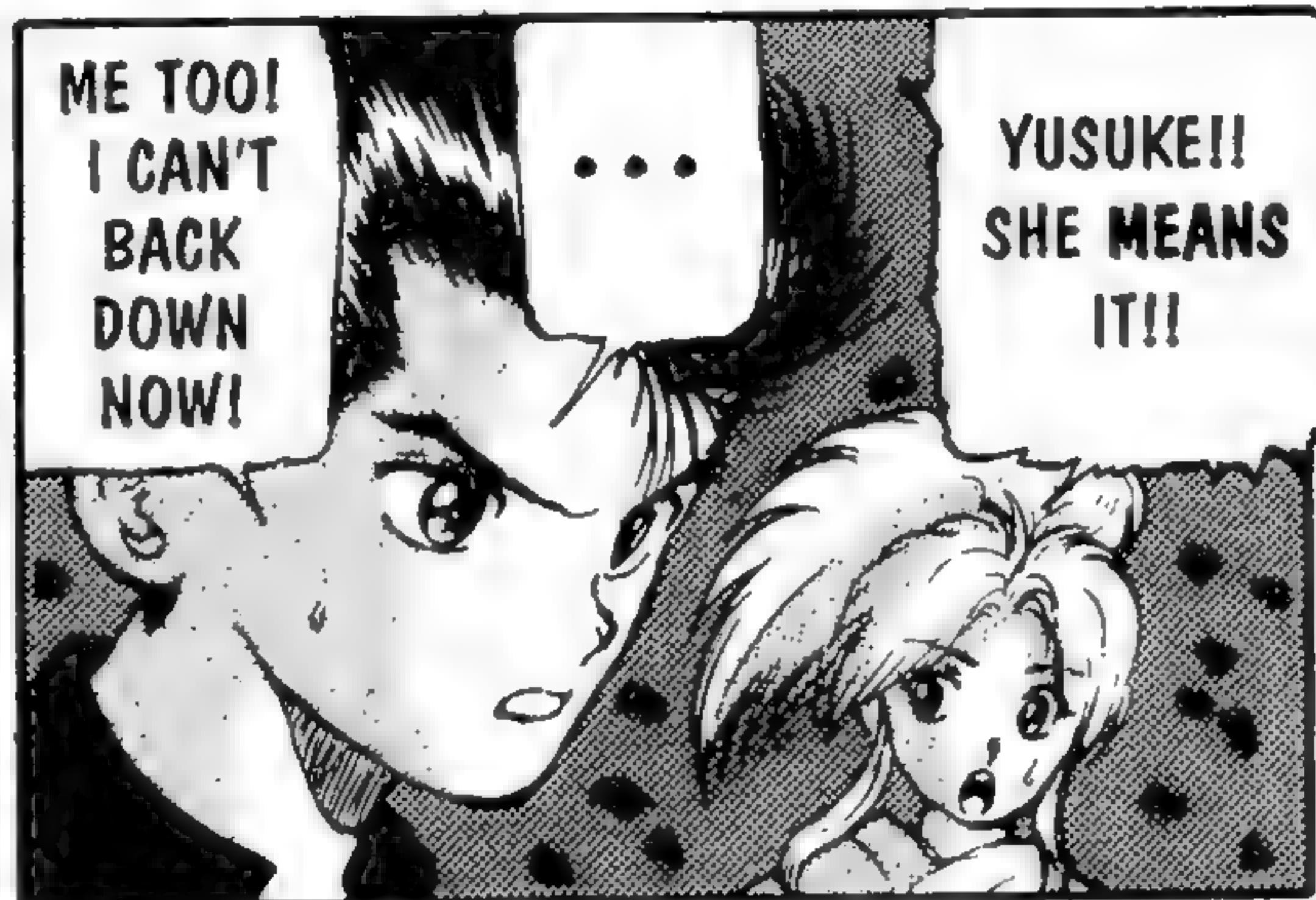


BRRR



THIS IS ABOUT SHOTA'S SOUL!

NO MATTER WHAT SHE MAY TRY TO THROW AT ME.



ME TOO! I CAN'T BACK DOWN NOW!

...

YUSUKE!! SHE MEANS IT!!



I'LL...I'LL BLAST YOU TO THE END OF THE UNIVERSE!!

SAYAKA, DON'T!!

YUSUKE!!

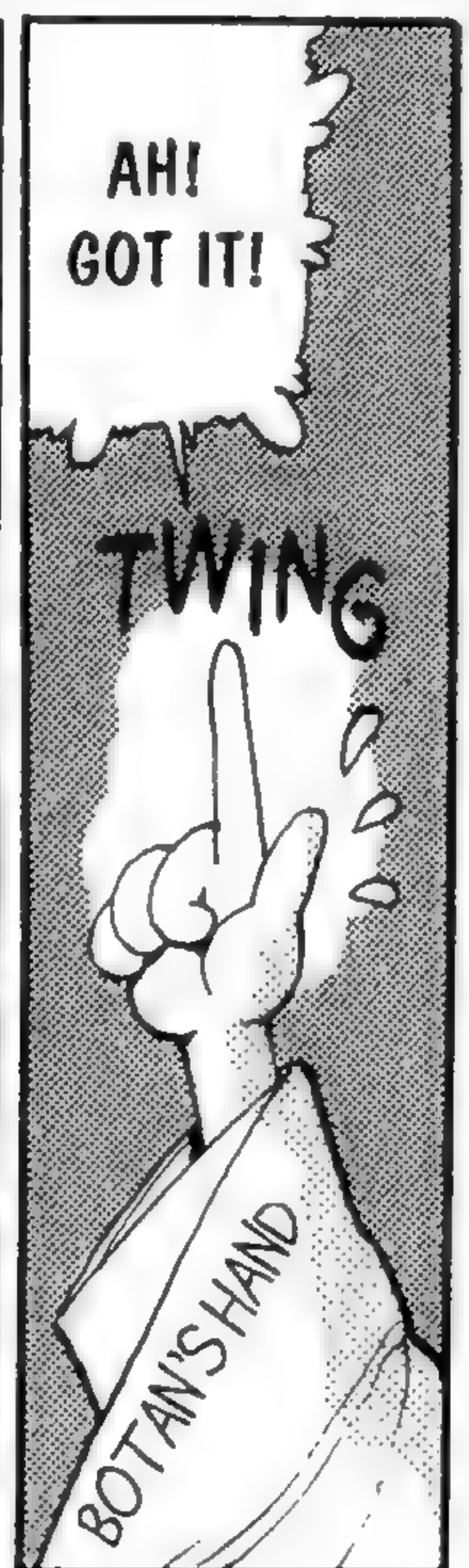
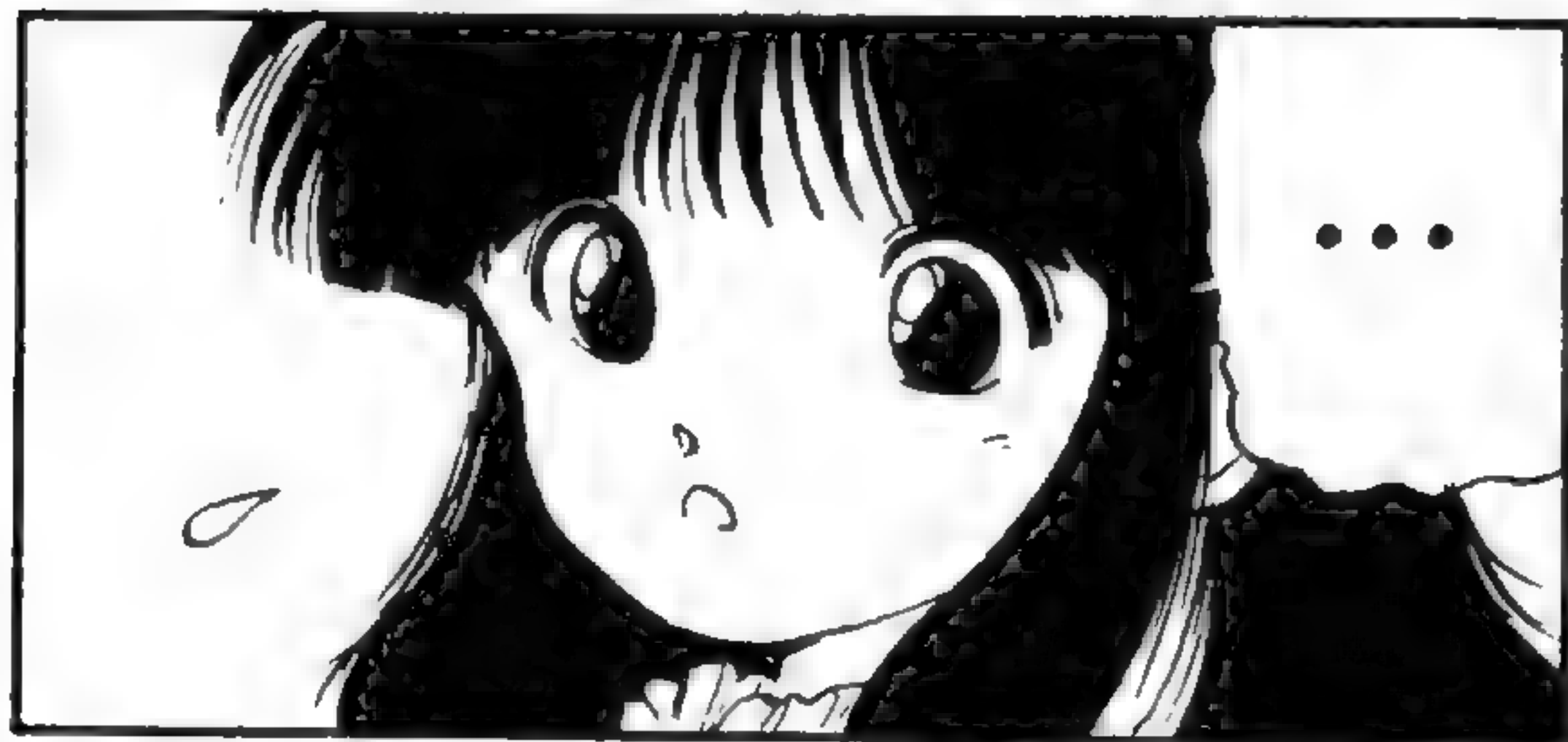
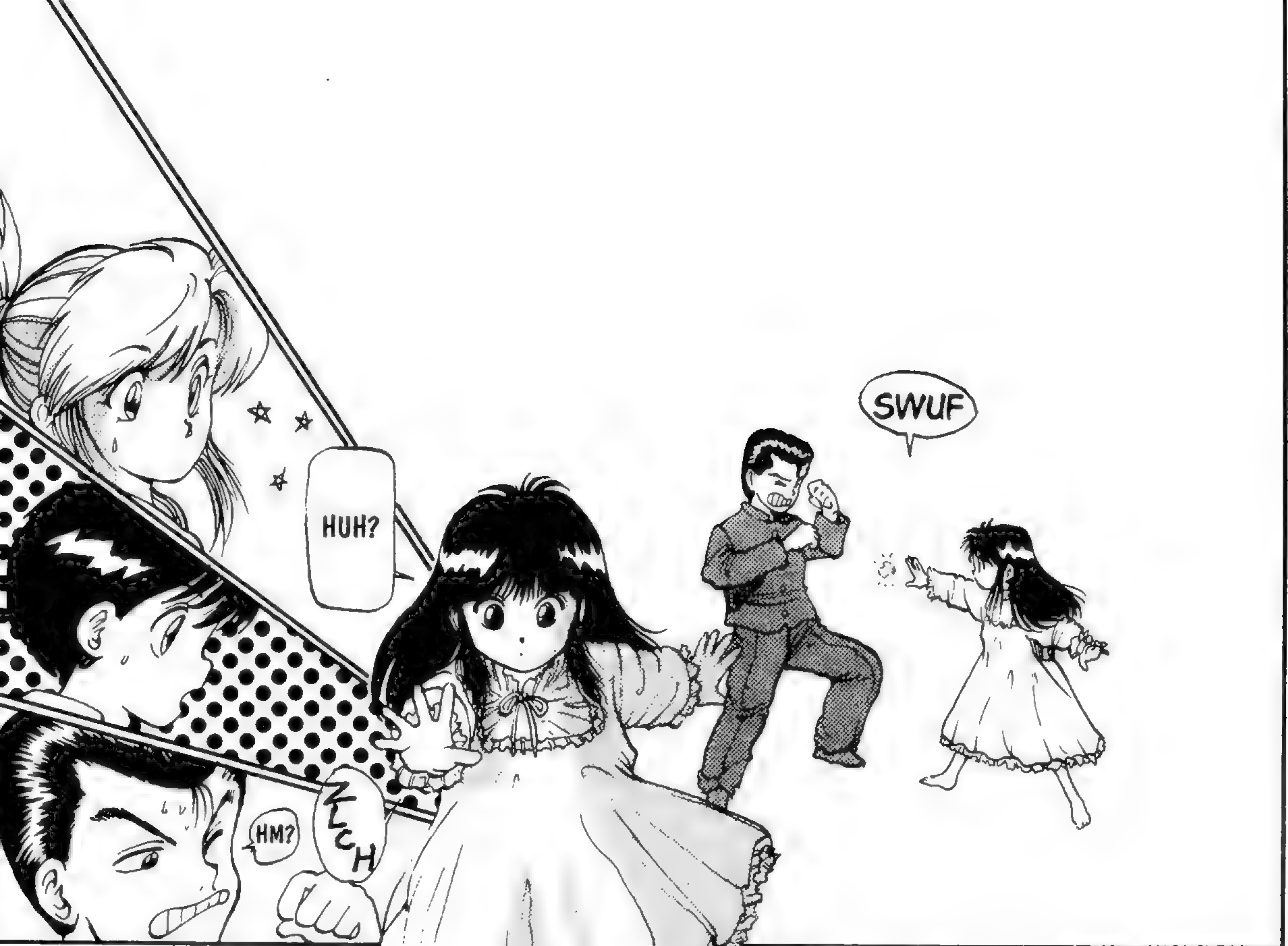


SHR!!

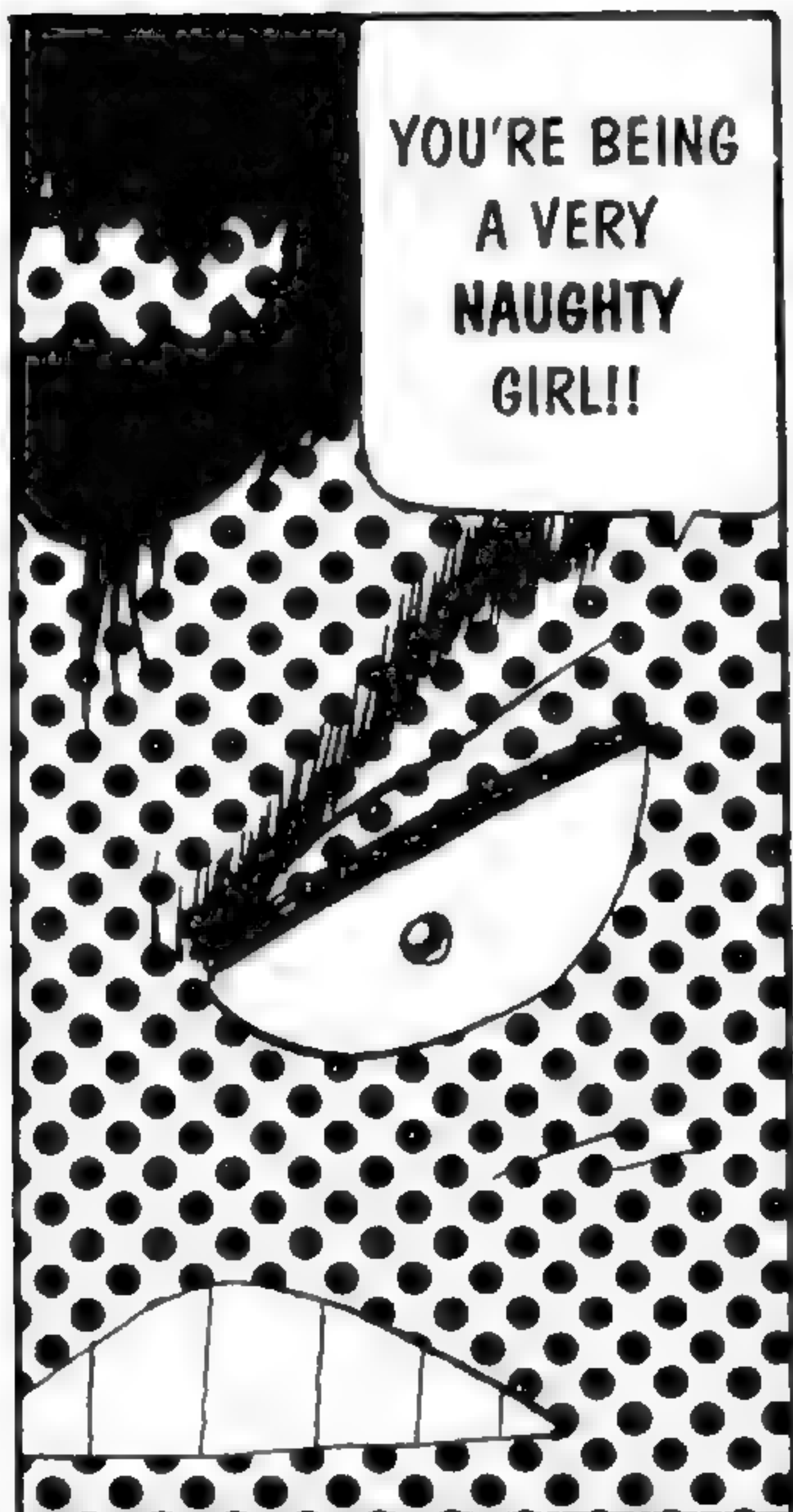


SUFFT









YOU'RE BEING  
A VERY  
NAUGHTY  
GIRL!!

SUDDENLY EMBOLDENED



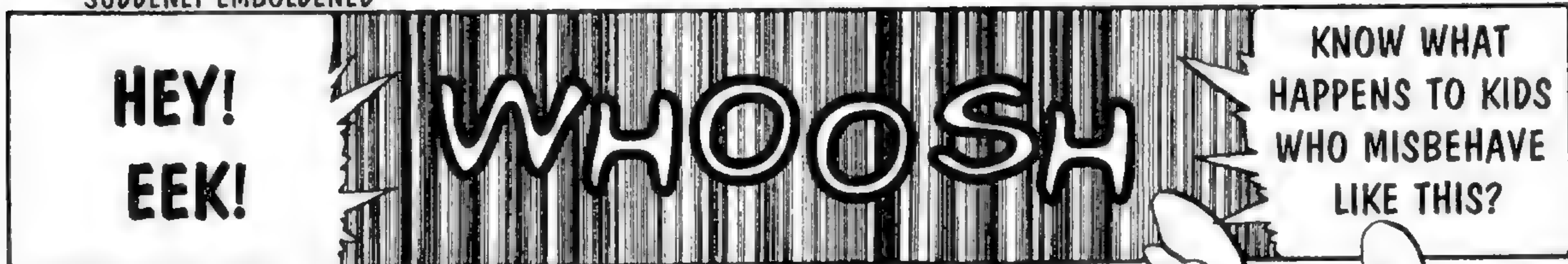
I'M TAKING  
SHOTA TO  
HEAVEN WITH  
ME!!

I'M NOT GOING  
WITHOUT HIM!!  
I'M NOT LETTING  
HIM GO!!



DON'T BE  
STUBBORN,  
NOW! HAND  
SHOTA OVER!!

NO!!



HEEY!  
HEEY!

WHOOOSH

KNOW WHAT  
HAPPENS TO KIDS  
WHO MISBEHAVE  
LIKE THIS?



SWAP  
SWAP  
SWAP SWAP

OW!  
EEK! I'M  
SORRY!

SWAP

HE'S SO  
HARSH,  
AS  
ALWAYS  
...



A  
SPANKING!

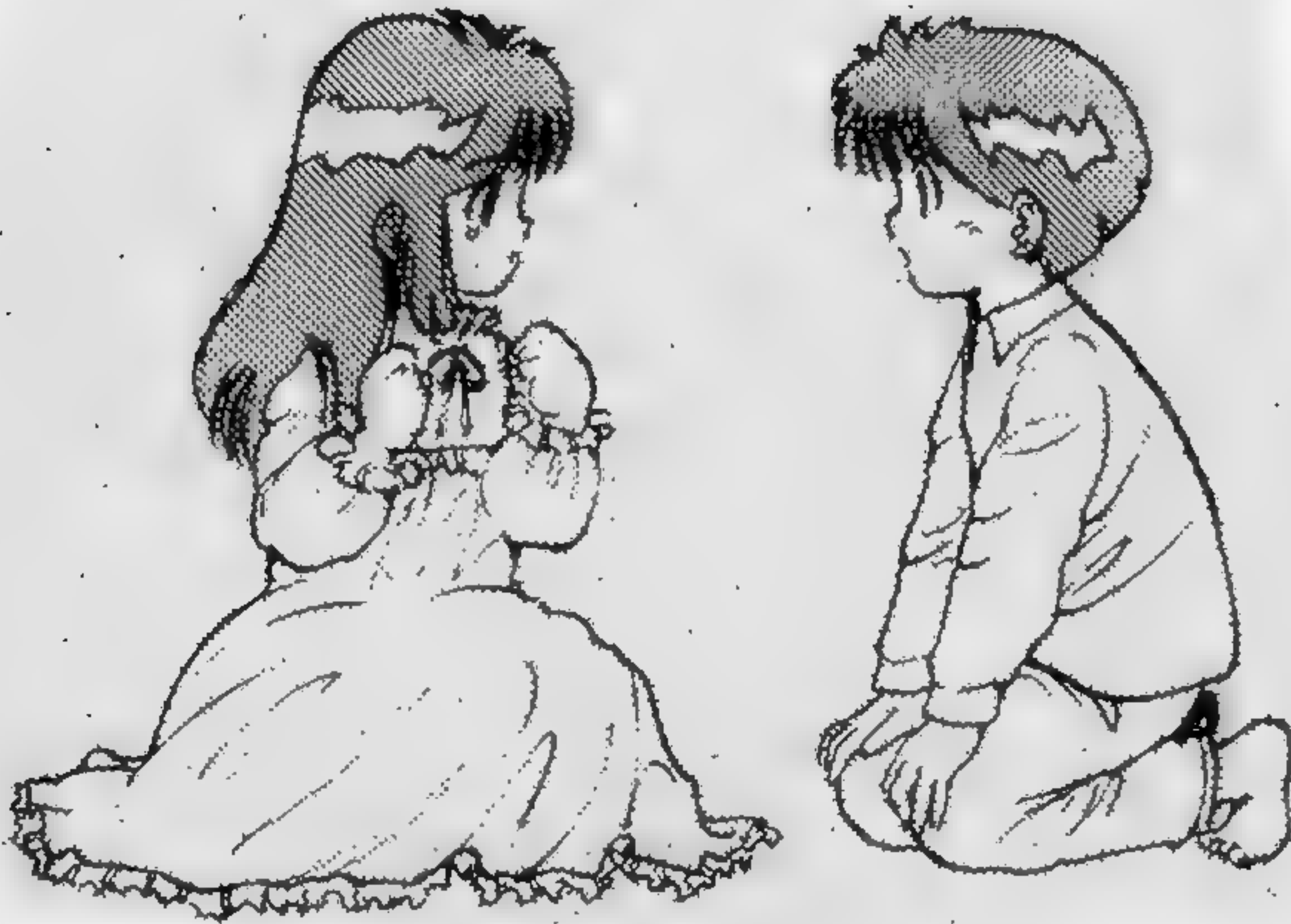
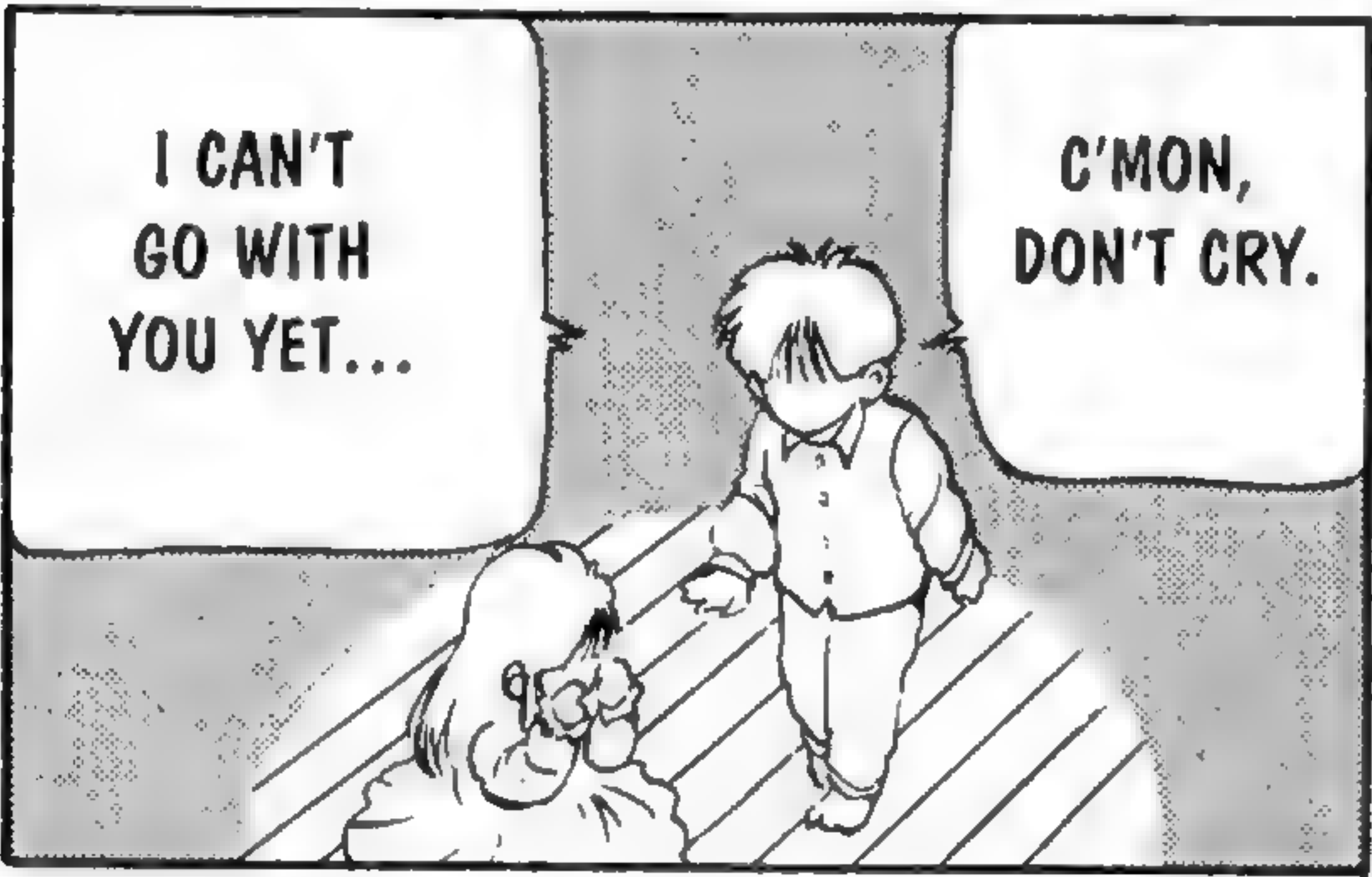
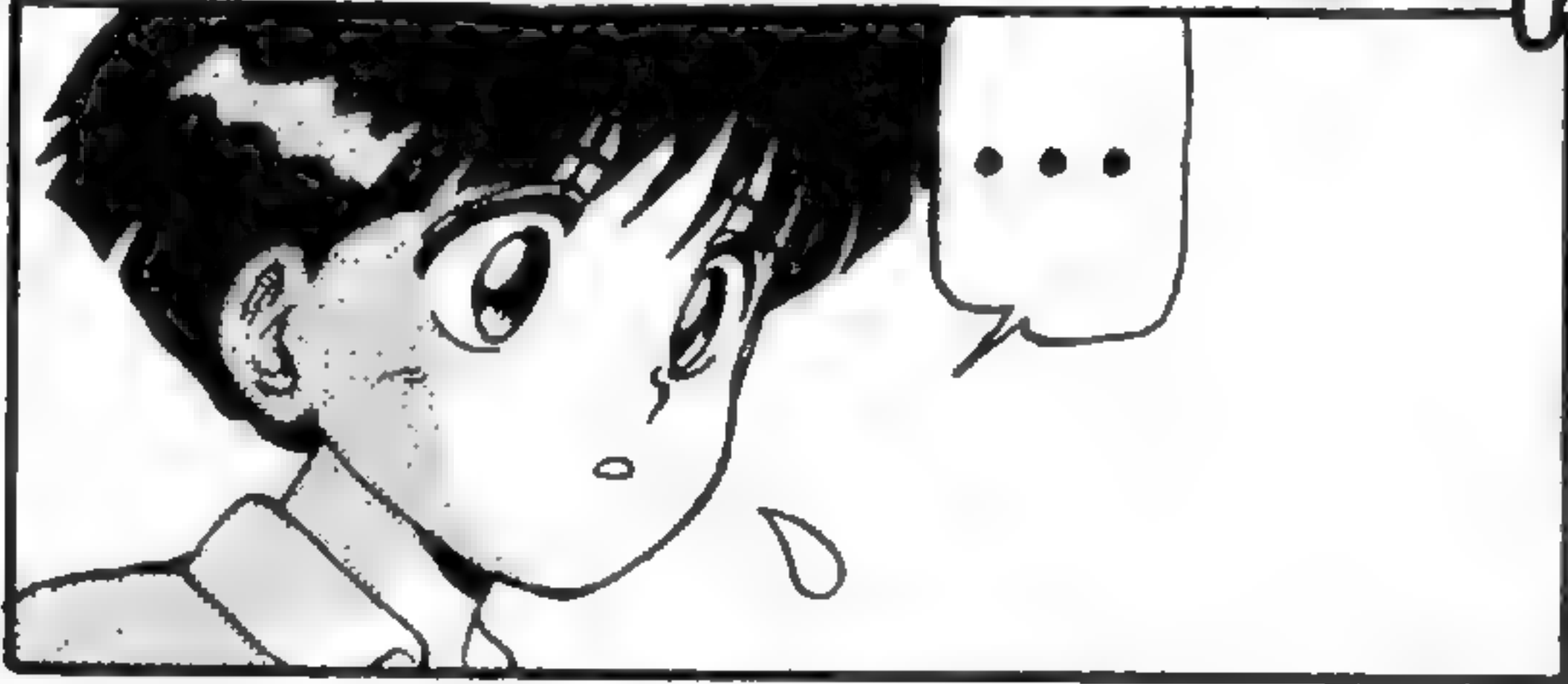
A GOOD  
SPANKING!

OW,  
OW!

YIEEE!!

SWAP  
SWAP  
SWAP  
SWAP

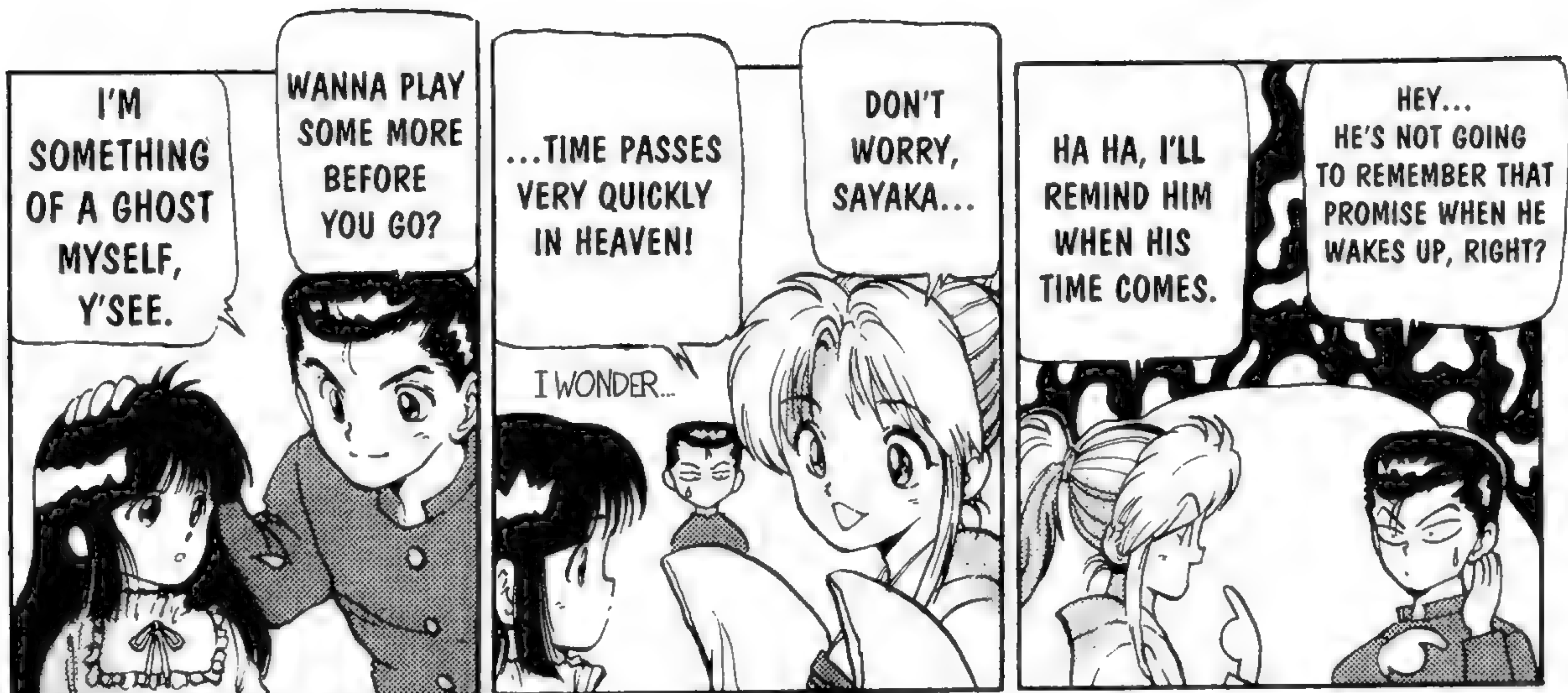




...BUT WHEN  
I GET TO HEAVEN,  
WE'LL BE FRIENDS  
FOREVER!













...AND  
A LITTLE  
SAD...

... 'CEPT IT WAS  
FUN, KINDA  
SCARY...



SHOTA  
...

SHOTA!!



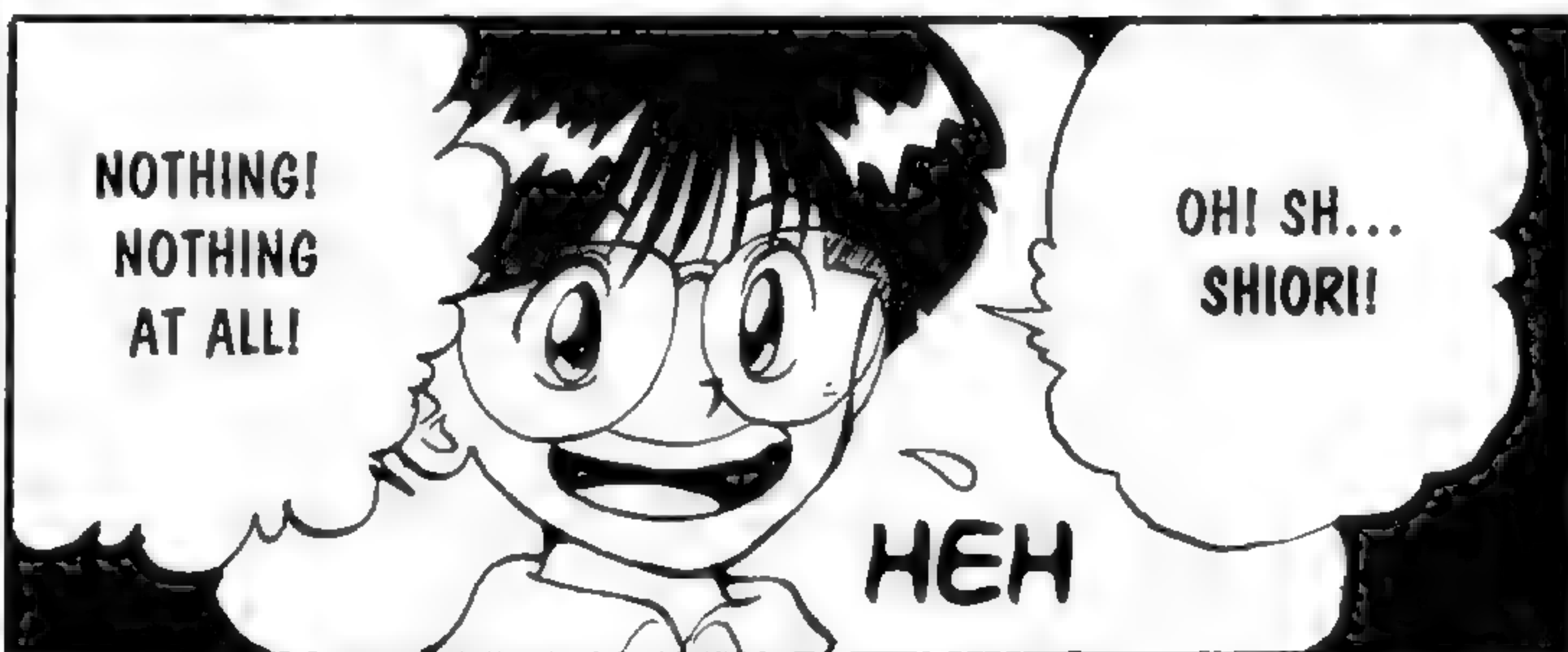
LATER...



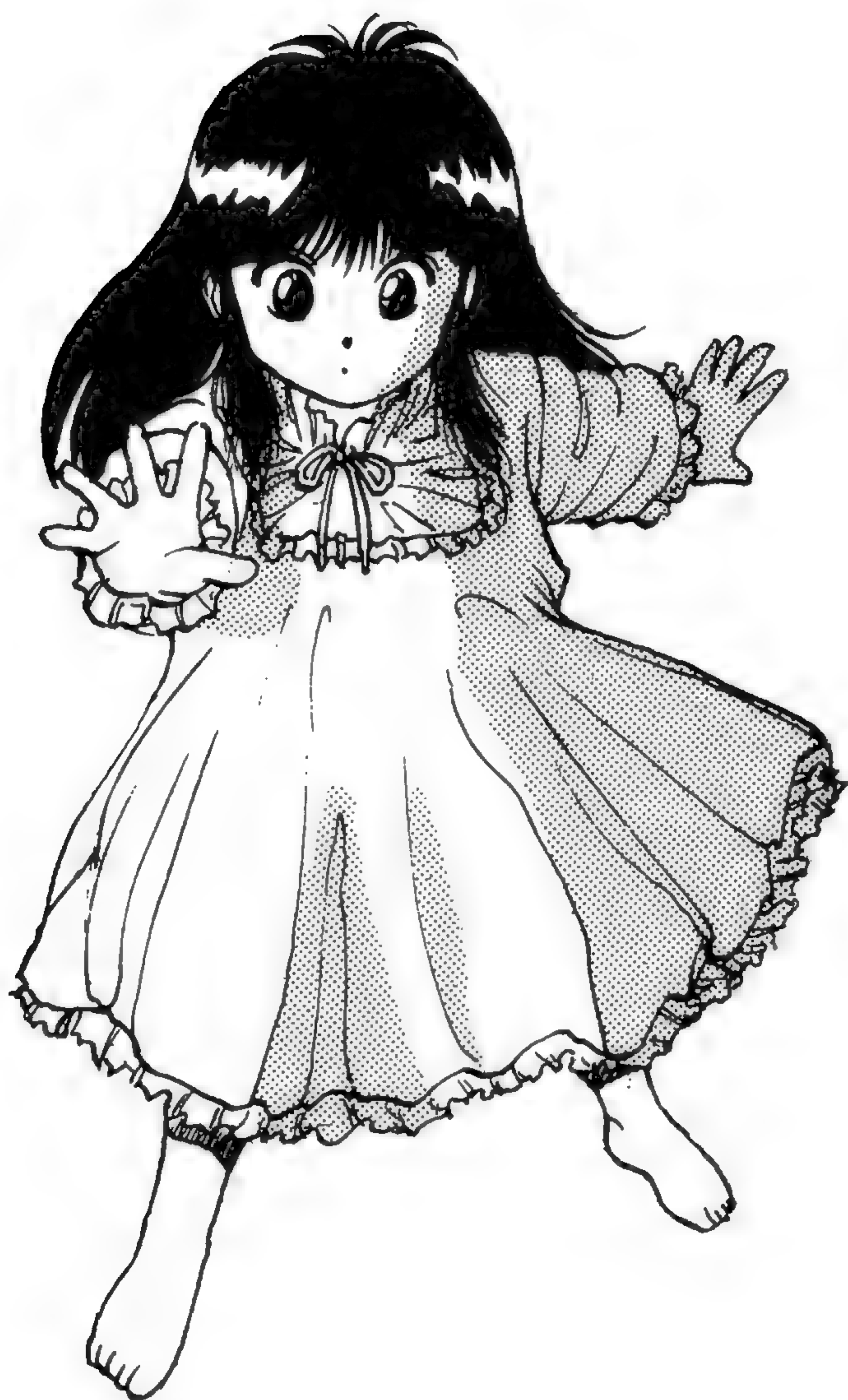
SHE HASN'T  
SHOWN UP LATELY...  
I WONDER IF SHE  
MOVED...?



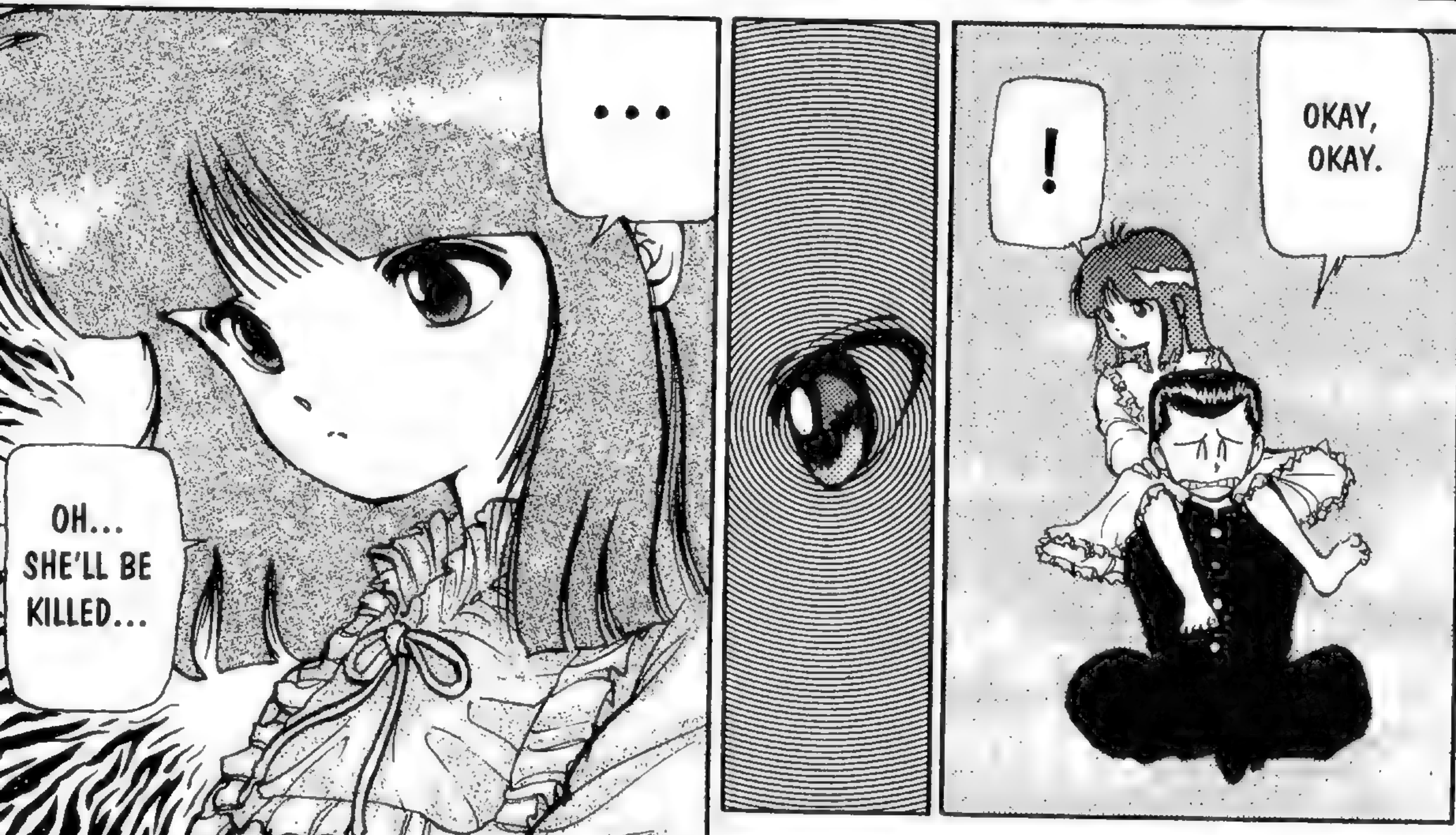






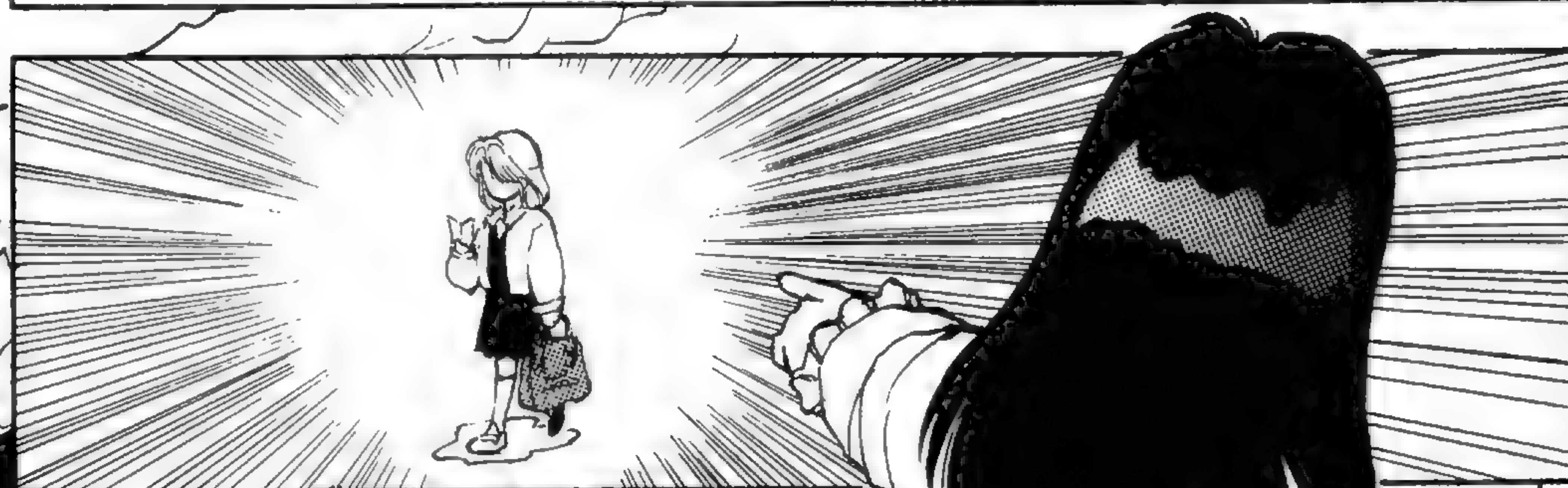






## CHAPTER 11: THE FRACTURED FRIENDSHIP







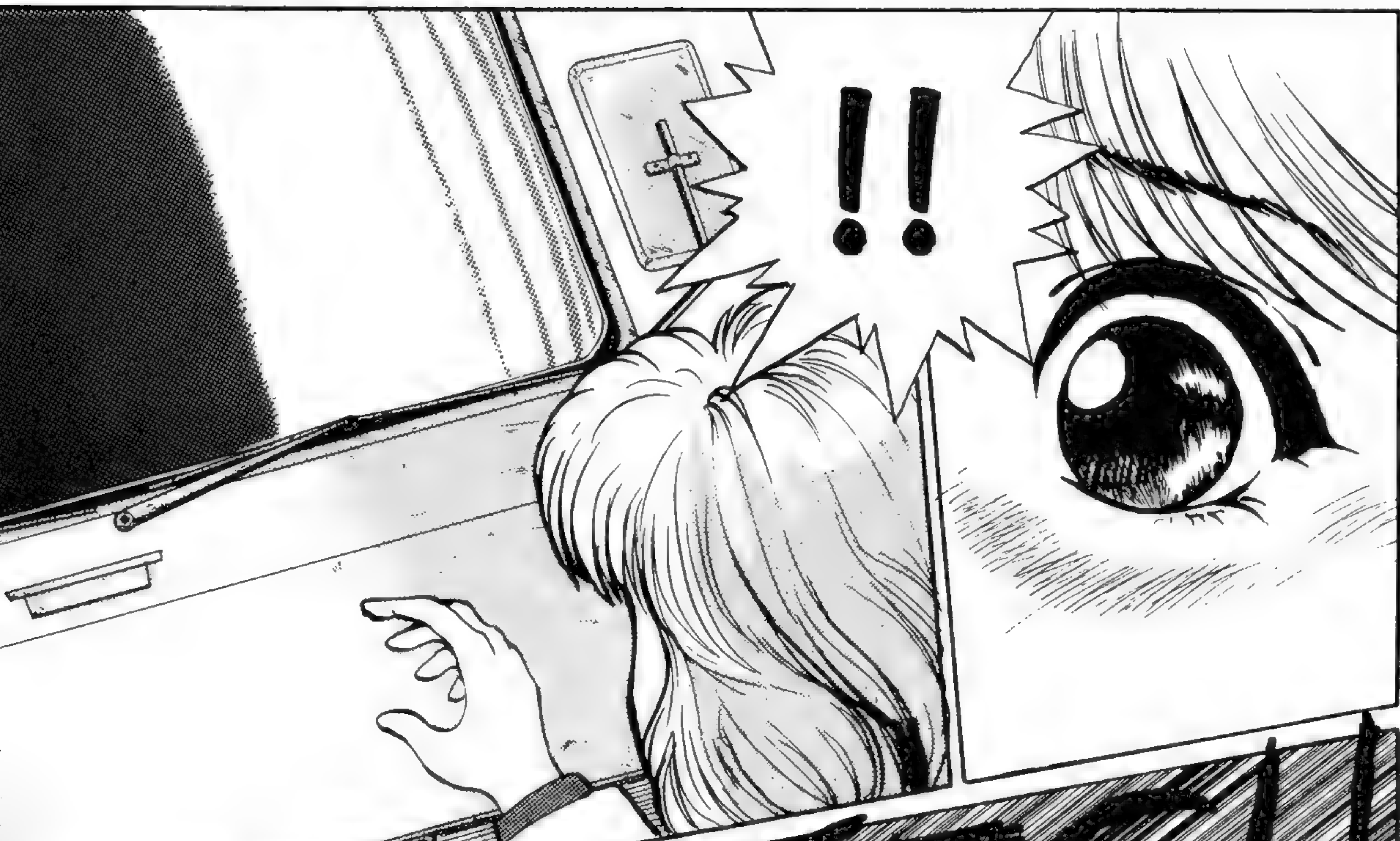
# **CHAPTER 11: THE FRACTURED FRIENDSHIP**











SCREEECH

WHY'D YOU  
START ACROSS  
WHEN THE LIGHT  
WAS RED?! YOU  
COULD'VE BEEN  
KILLED!

ERI!  
ARE YOU  
ALL RIGHT?!

WATCH IT,  
IDIOT!

YIEE!

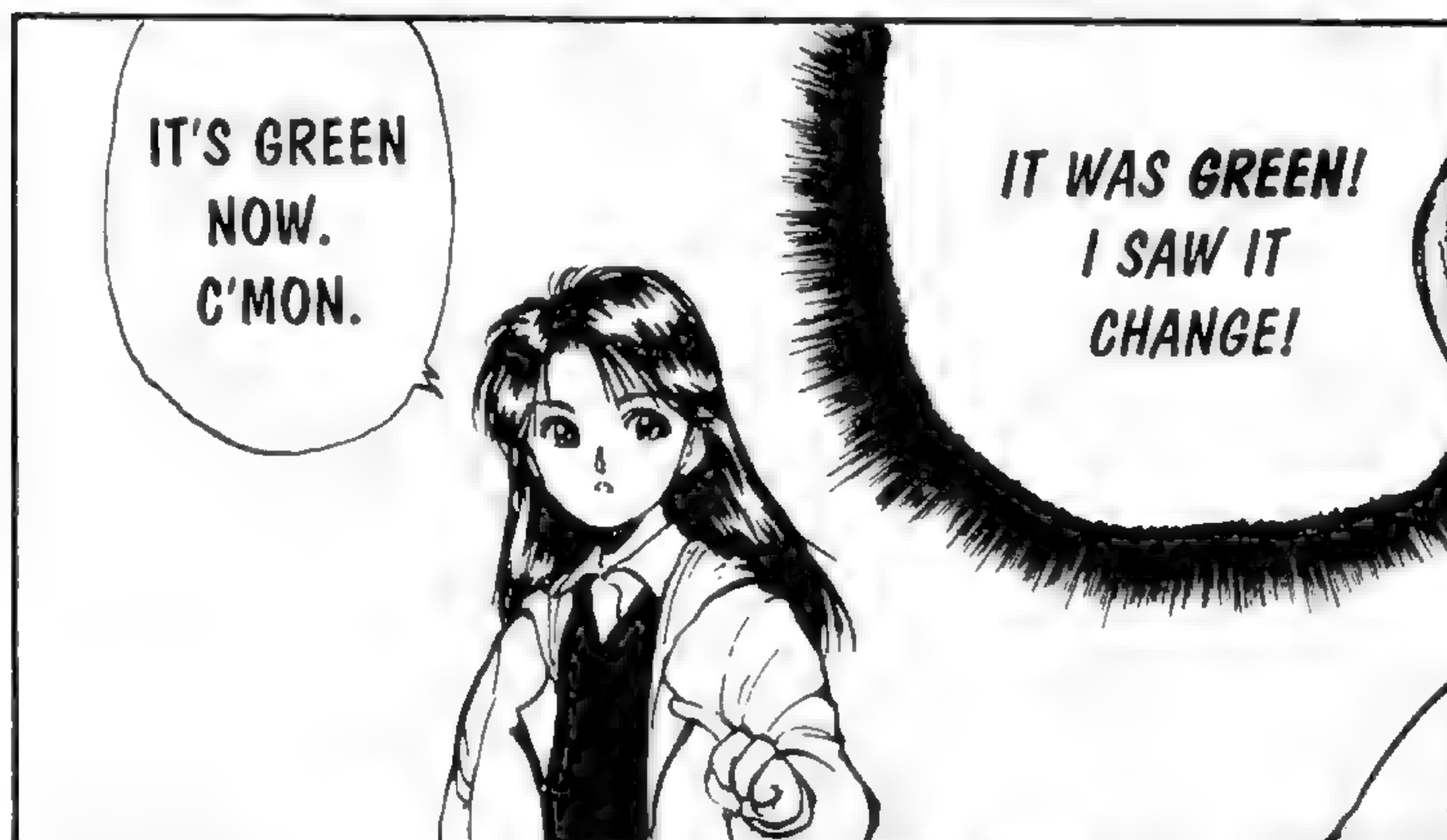
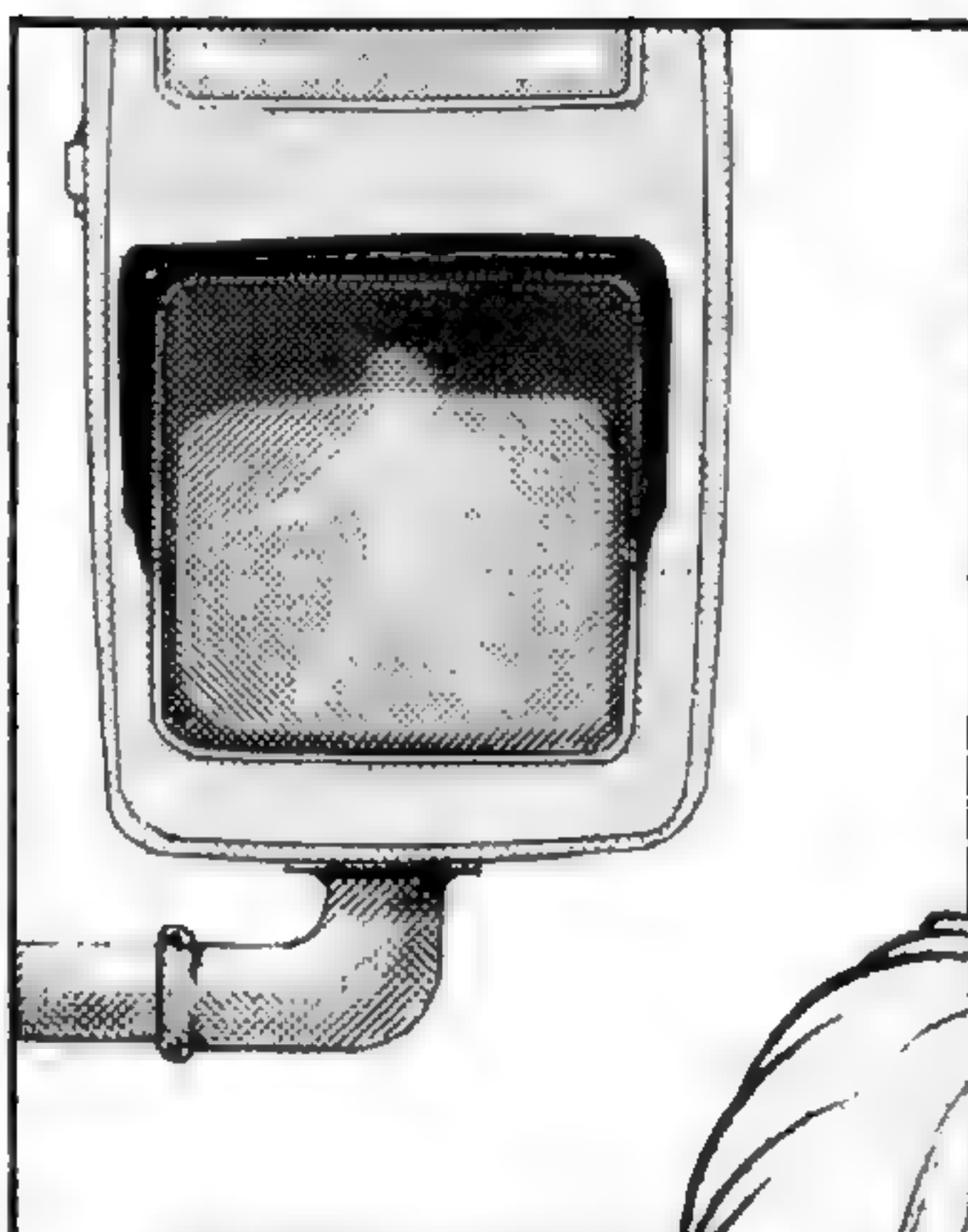
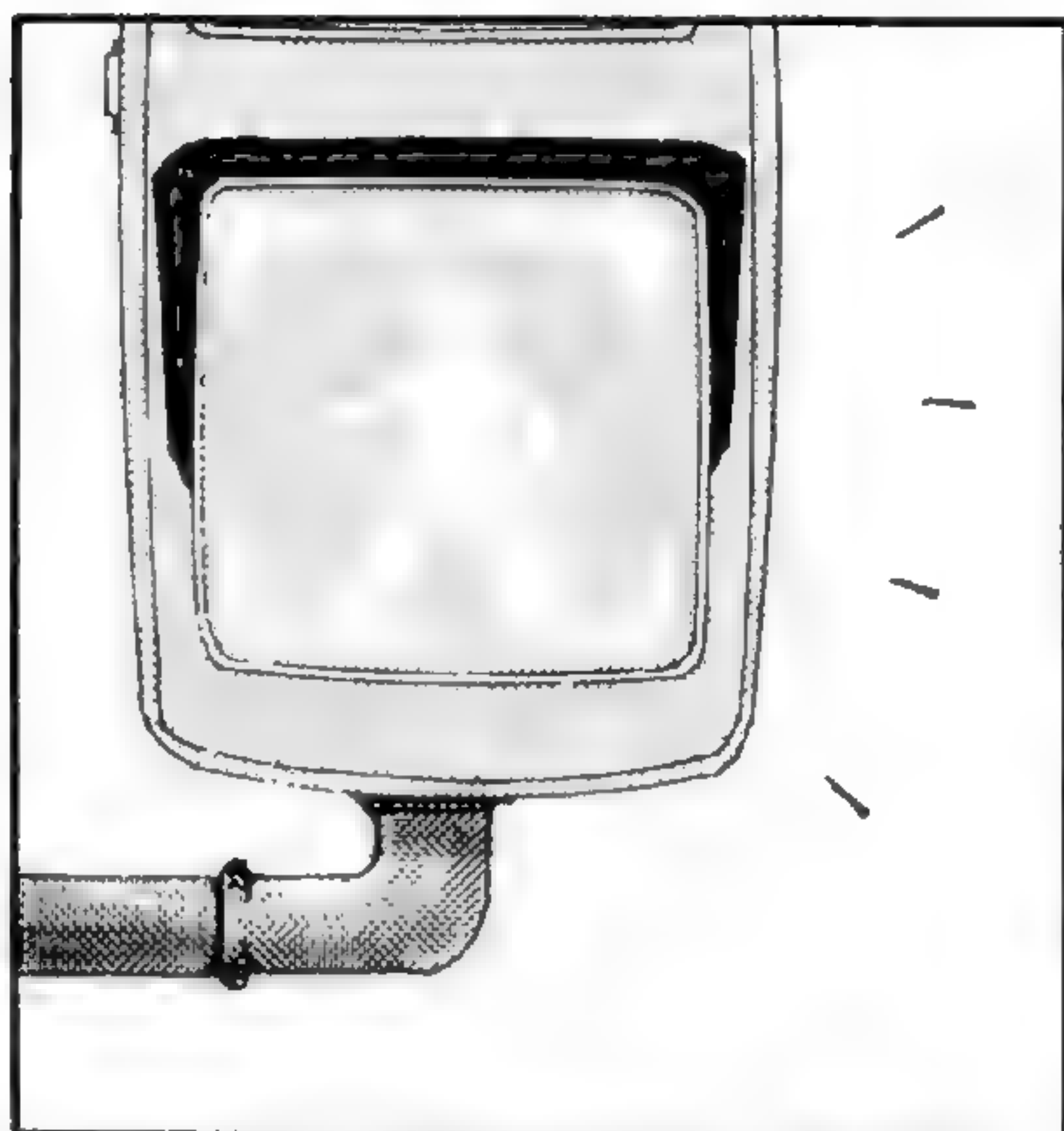
BUH-  
BMP

BUH-  
BMP

BUH-  
BMP

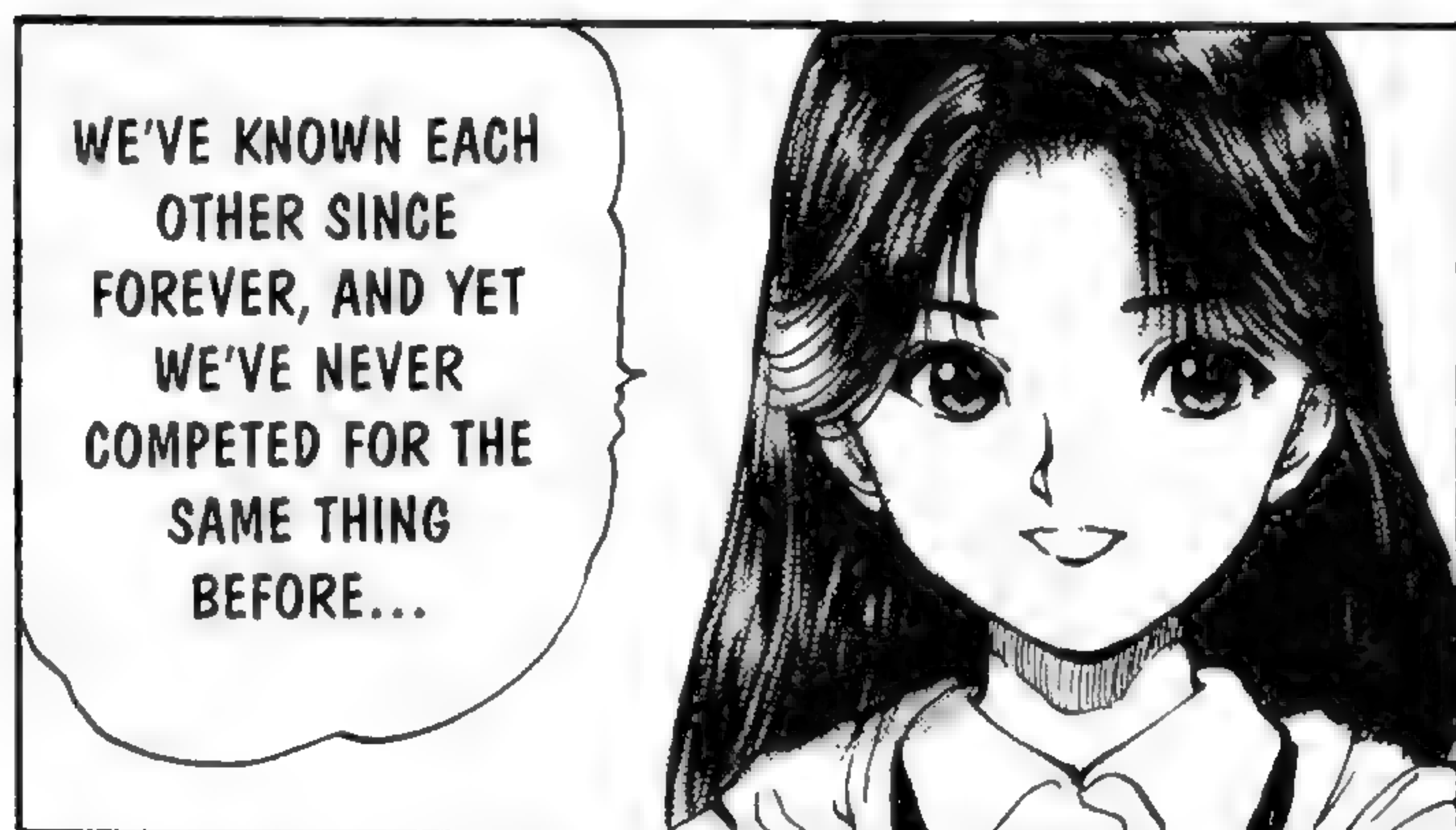
W  
H  
O  
S  
H





IT'S GREEN  
NOW.  
C'MON.

IT WAS GREEN!  
I SAW IT  
CHANGE!



WE'VE KNOWN EACH  
OTHER SINCE  
FOREVER, AND YET  
WE'VE NEVER  
COMPETED FOR THE  
SAME THING  
BEFORE...

YOU SHOULD  
EASE OFF.  
NO POINT  
STRESSING OUT  
SO MUCH YOU  
GET SICK OR  
RUN OVER.

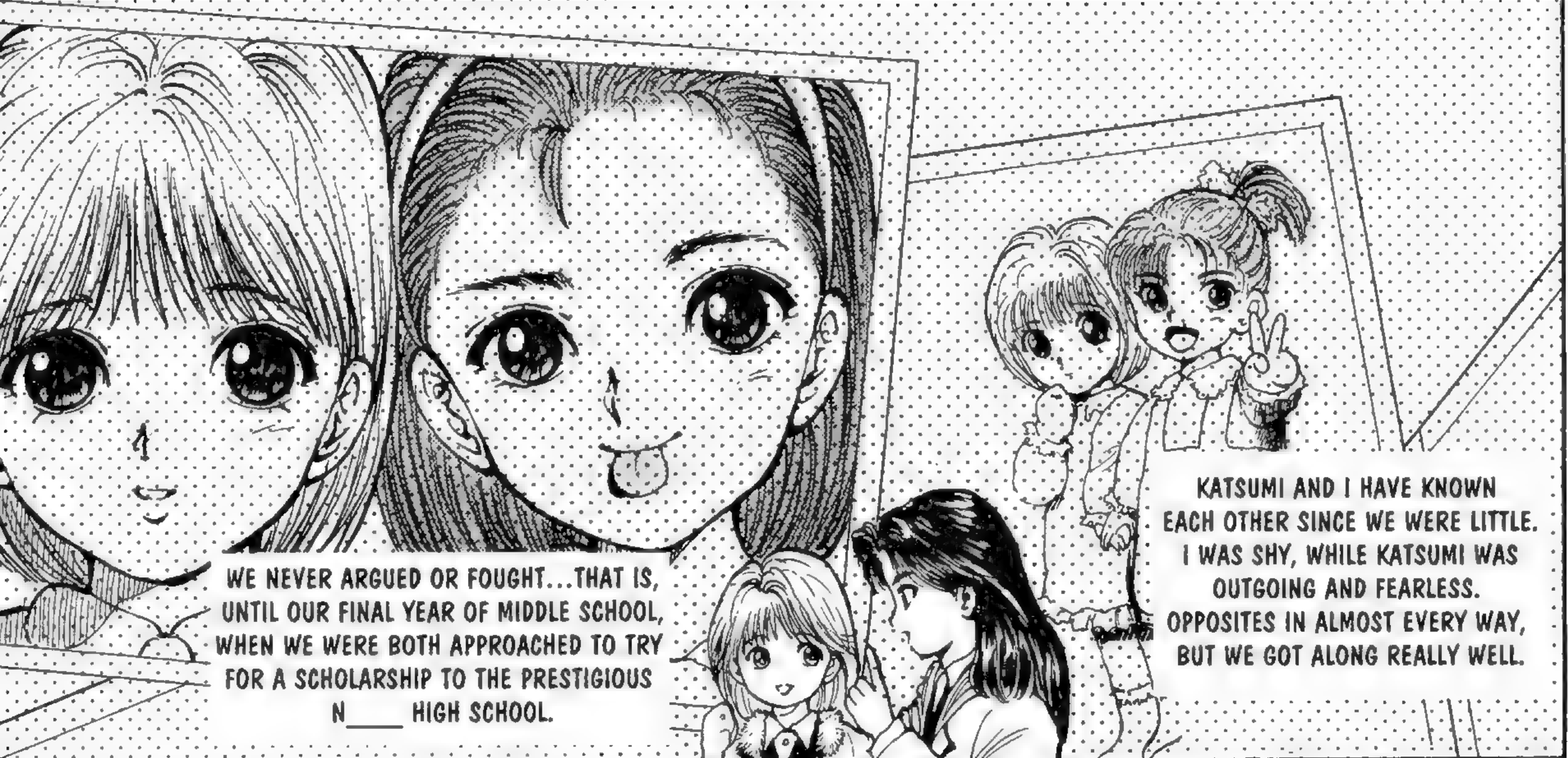
YOU ASK ME,  
YOU'RE GETTING  
WOOZY FROM  
STUDYING  
SO HARD.



TRUE.

WITHOUT YOU,  
THE CONTEST  
WOULD BE  
A LOT LESS  
INTERESTING.





WE NEVER ARGUED OR FOUGHT...THAT IS, UNTIL OUR FINAL YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL, WHEN WE WERE BOTH APPROACHED TO TRY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP TO THE PRESTIGIOUS N \_\_\_\_ HIGH SCHOOL.

KATSUMI AND I HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE WE WERE LITTLE. I WAS SHY, WHILE KATSUMI WAS OUTGOING AND FEARLESS. OPPOSITES IN ALMOST EVERY WAY, BUT WE GOT ALONG REALLY WELL.

IT'S A NATIONALLY FAMOUS PRIVATE PREP SCHOOL, AND THIS YEAR THEY STARTED A PROGRAM THAT WOULD AWARD A SCHOLARSHIP TO ONE STUDENT OUR SCHOOL RECOMMENDED. KATSUMI AND I WERE THE BEST CANDIDATES.

AND THAT'S NOT ALL THAT'S BOTHERING ME LATELY.

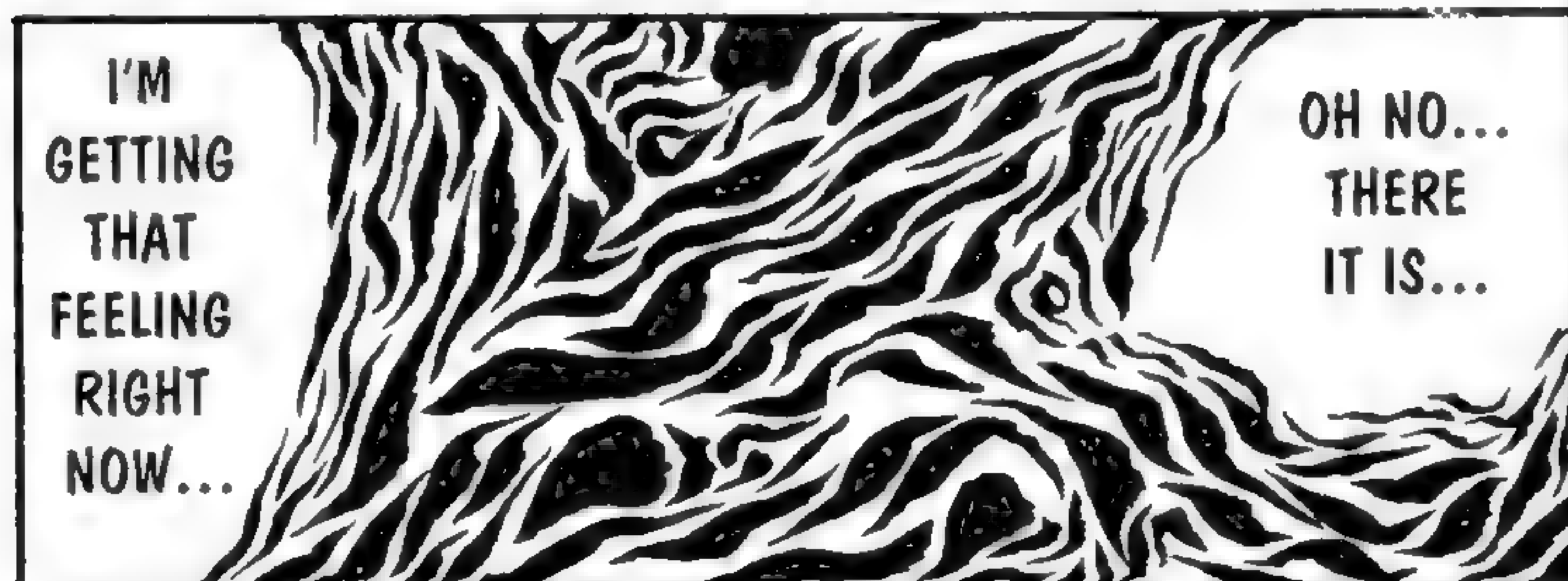
I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF COMPETING WITH KATSUMI... IT DEPRESSES ME, IN FACT.

...ESPECIALLY WHEN I'M STUDYING ALONE AT NIGHT...

...LIKE NOISES THAT DON'T SEEM TO HAVE A CAUSE... THE FEELING THAT SOMEONE'S BEHIND ME, WATCHING ME...

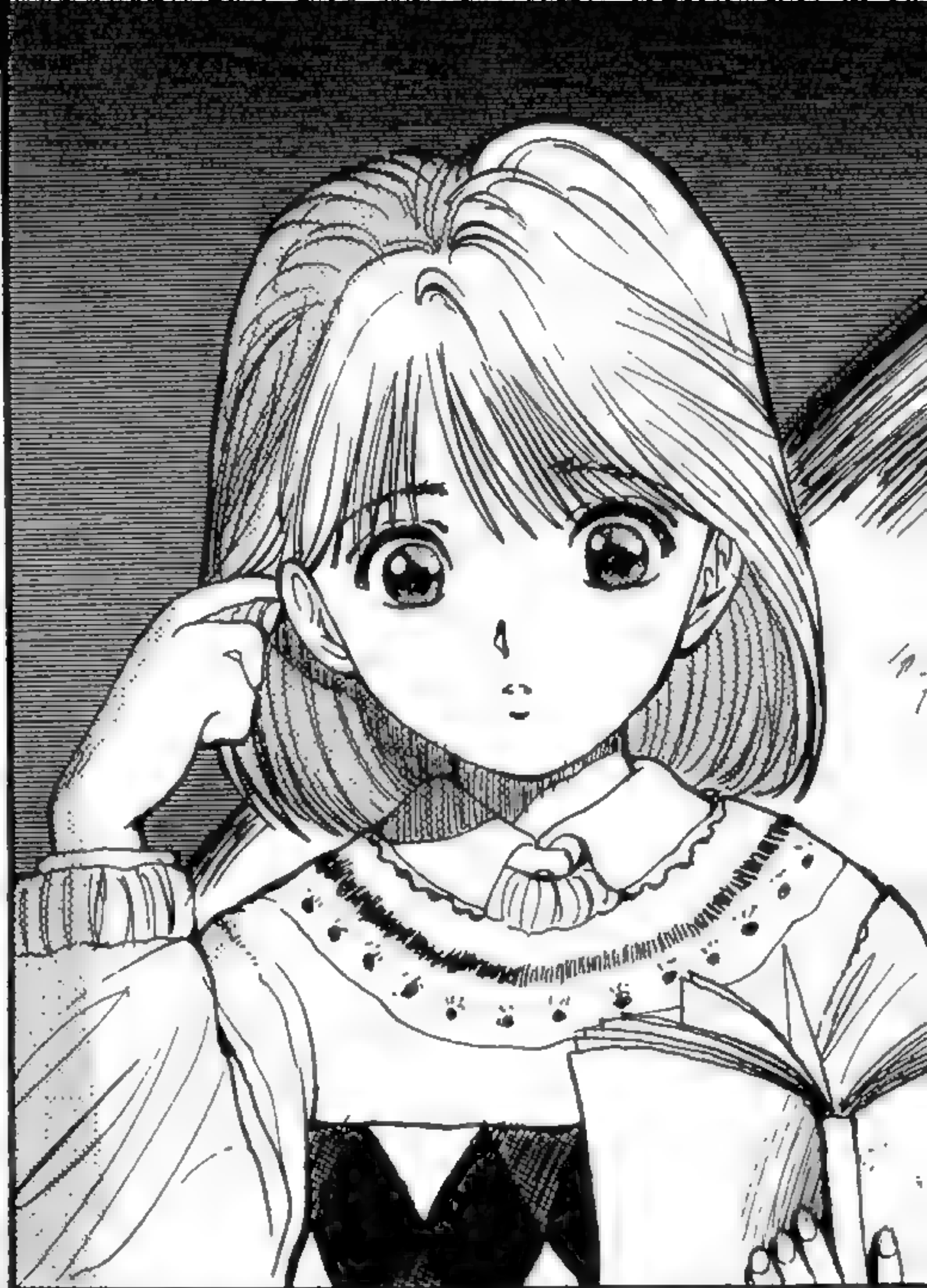
WEIRD THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING AROUND ME...





I'M  
GETTING  
THAT  
FEELING  
RIGHT  
NOW...

OH NO...  
THERE  
IT IS...



THE SENSE THAT  
SOMEONE'S IN THIS  
ROOM, THIS VERY  
MOMENT, **STARING**  
AT ME...

REEEEOO



BUH-  
BMP

BUH-  
BUMP



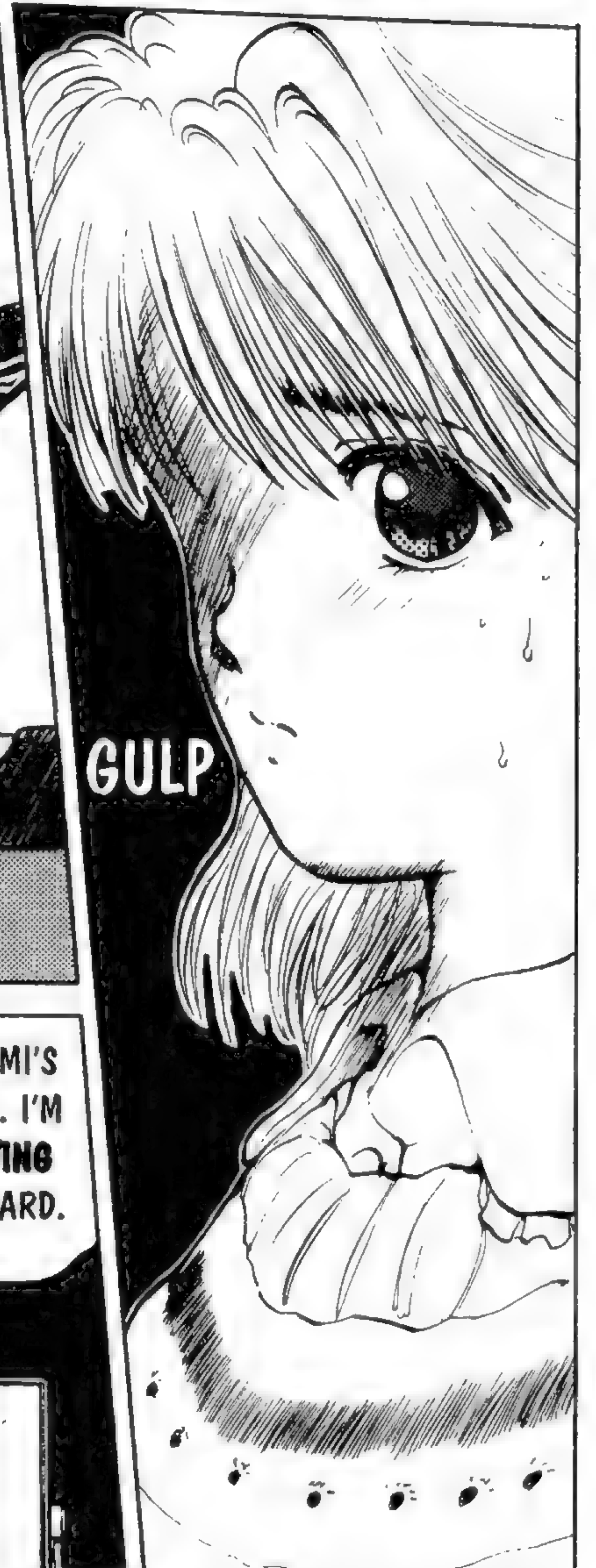
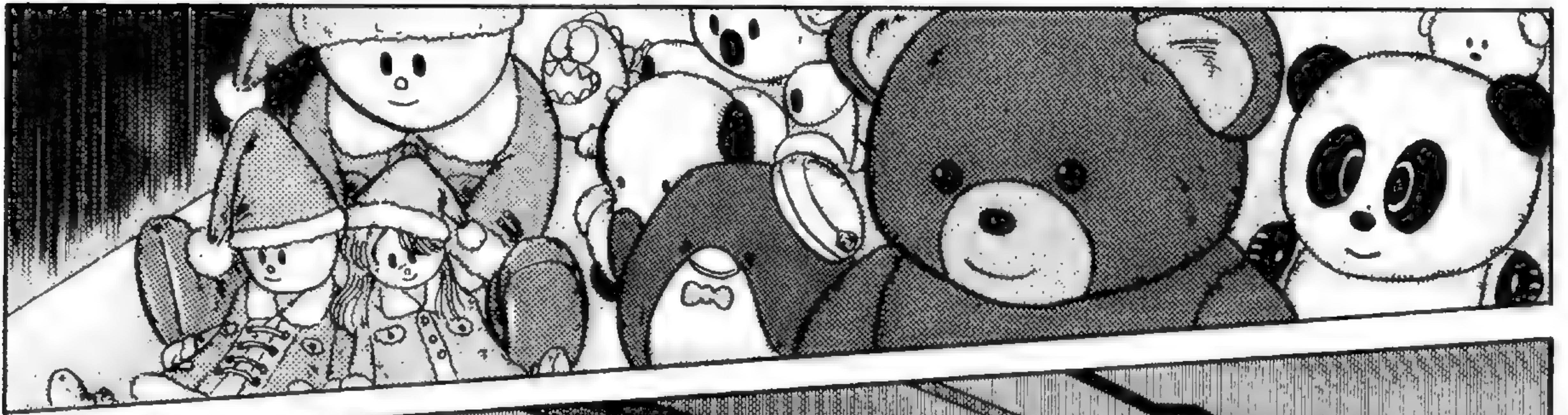
PEEK



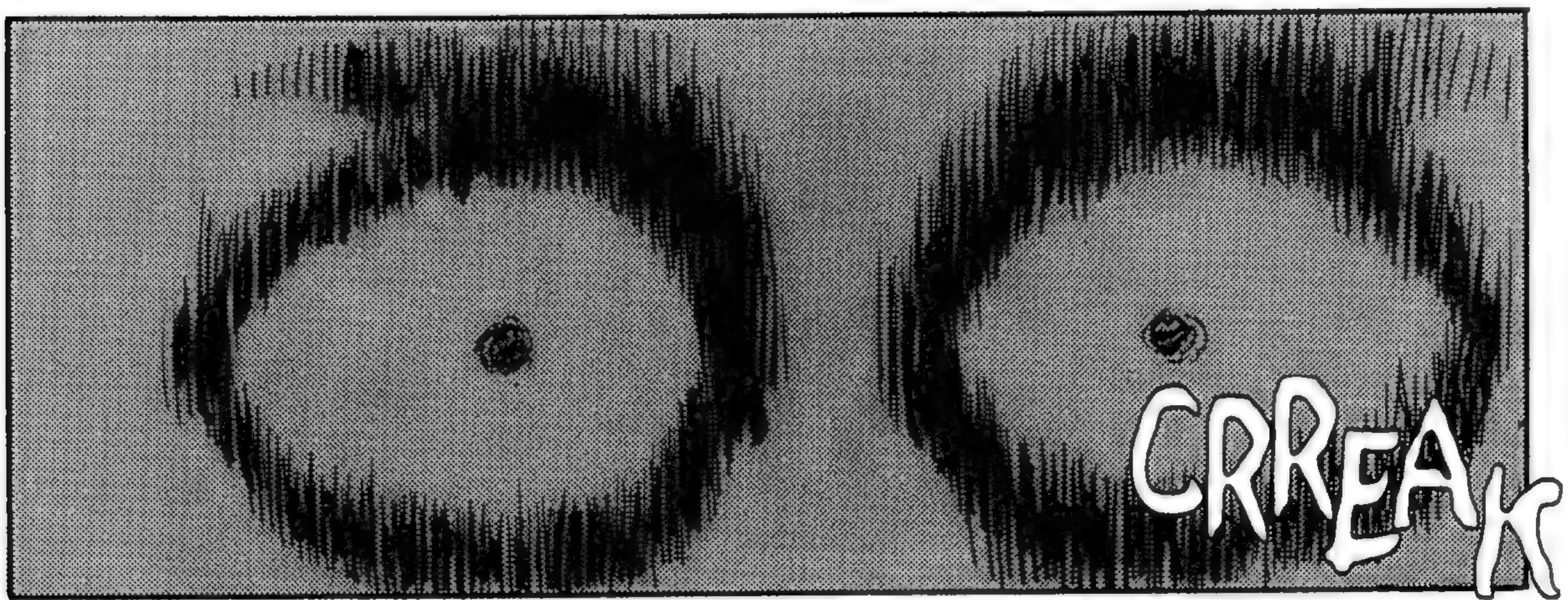
IT SCARES  
ME...

...BUT  
I HAVE  
TO MAKE  
SURE.









I CAME  
TO THE NEXT  
MORNING.



THE UPCOMING  
EXAMS WILL BE  
KEY TO SELECTING  
THE SCHOLARSHIP  
STUDENT.

## FACULTY OFFICES

WHAT'S  
THE MATTER, ERI?  
YOU AREN'T PUTTING  
MUCH HEART INTO  
YOUR CLASSES  
LATELY.

LISTEN, IF IT'S BOTHERING YOU TO COMPETE WITH  
YOUR FRIEND, OR YOU THINK YOU'D RATHER GO  
TO A PUBLIC SCHOOL, GET OVER IT! YOU'LL GET NO  
RECOMMENDATION FROM ME UNLESS IT'S FOR THE  
N\_\_\_\_ HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP.  
SO BEAT KATSUMI SATO IN CLASS B!

...AND MY  
MONEY'S ON  
YOU, SO TO  
SPEAK.

YOU MUST GIVE  
YOUR **ALL** FOR  
THESE EXAMS.

YOU'RE  
SLIGHTLY  
IN THE LEAD  
RIGHT  
NOW...

MY REPUTATION WILL  
BE MADE IF ONE OF  
MY PUPILS GOES  
TO N\_\_\_\_ HIGH  
SCHOOL.  
GEH HEH HEH.

ROOEE  
REEOOO

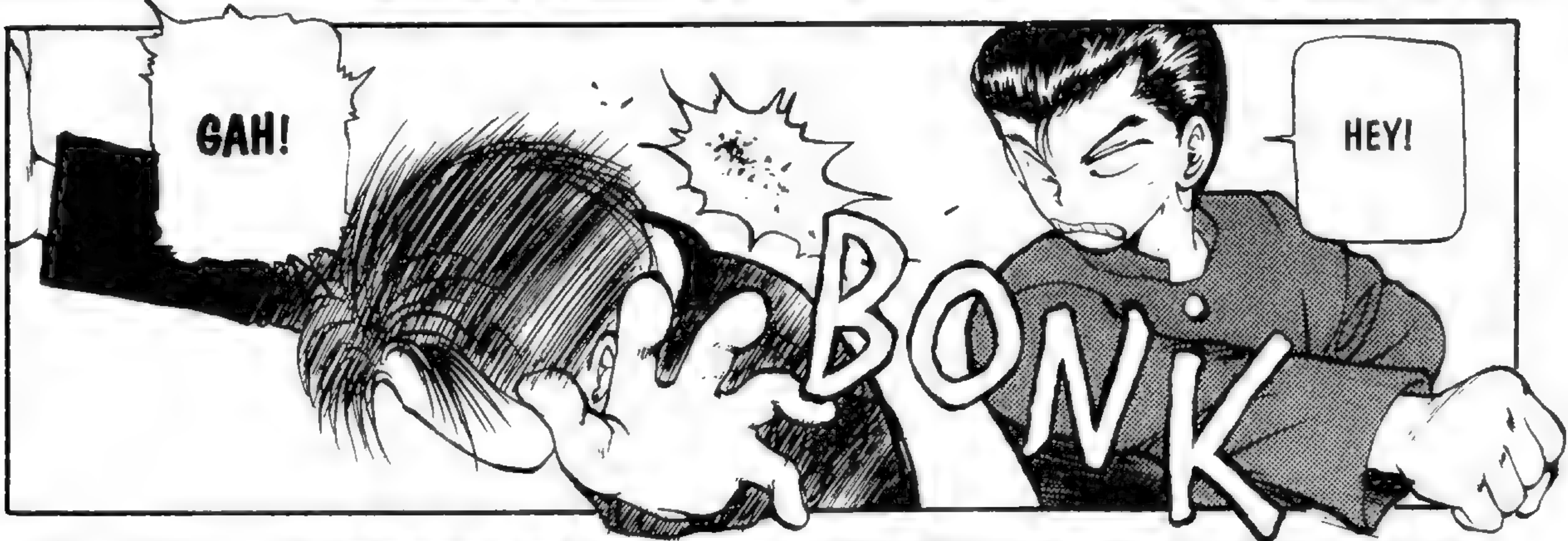
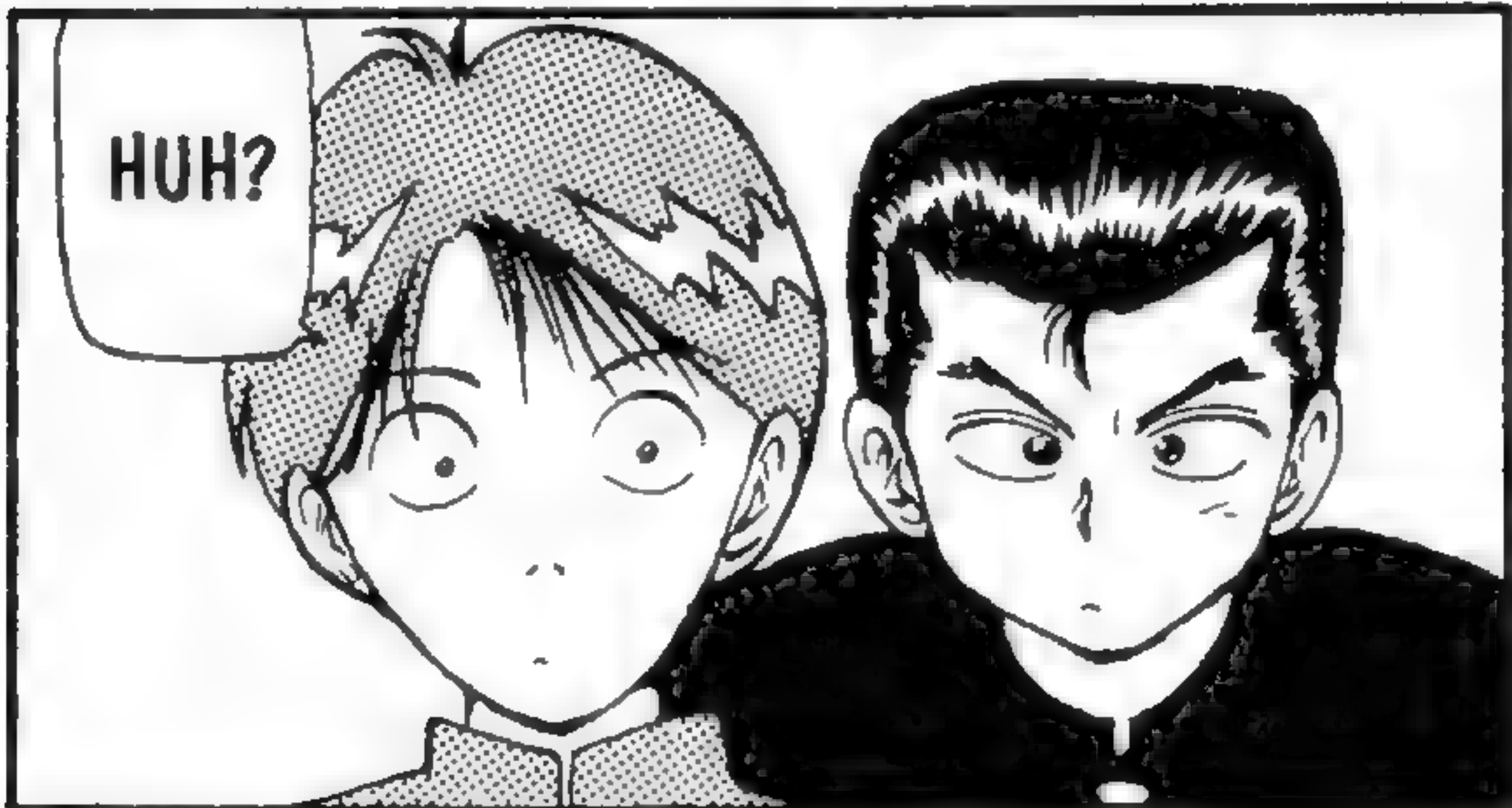
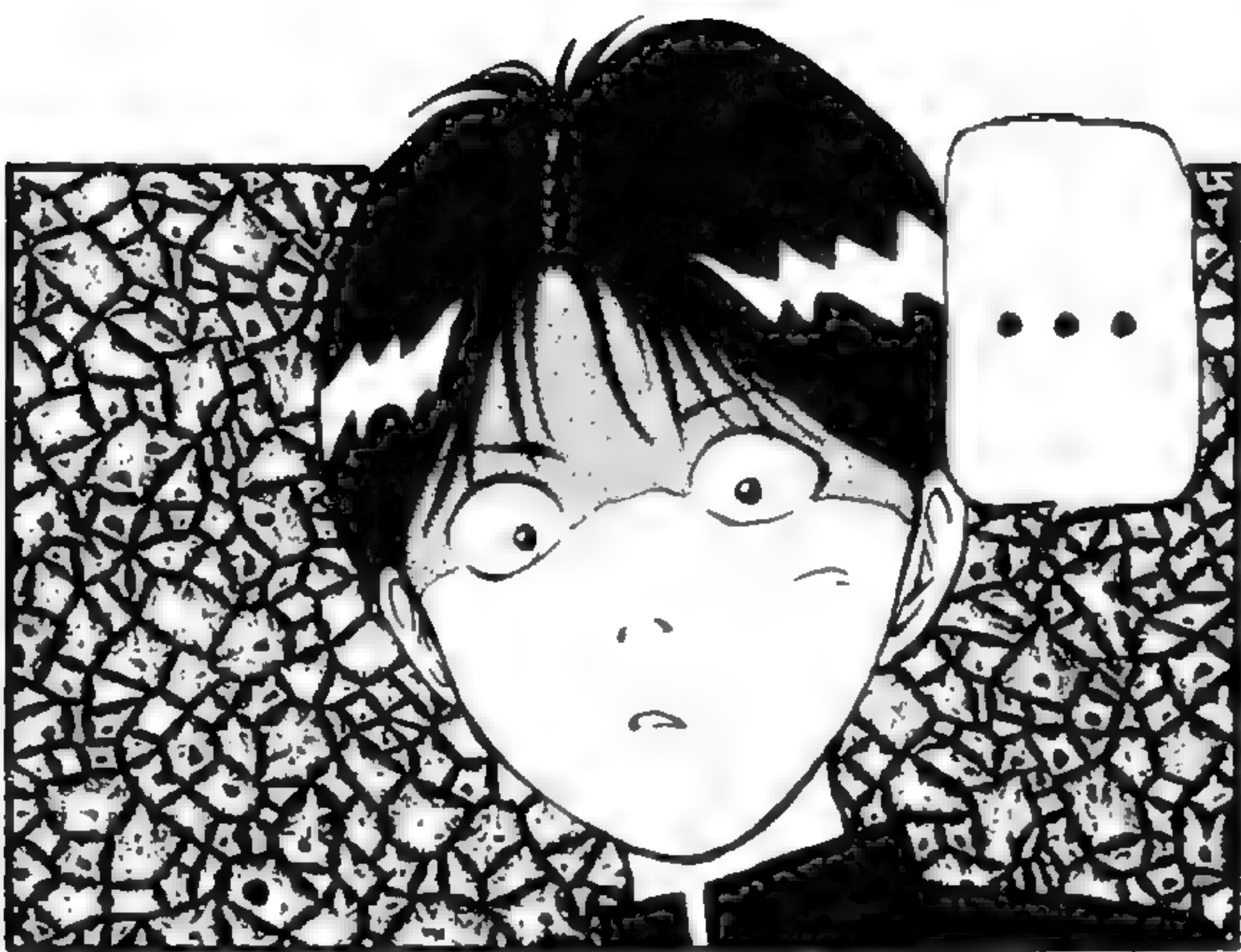
SIGH.

...I'M  
EXHAUSTED.

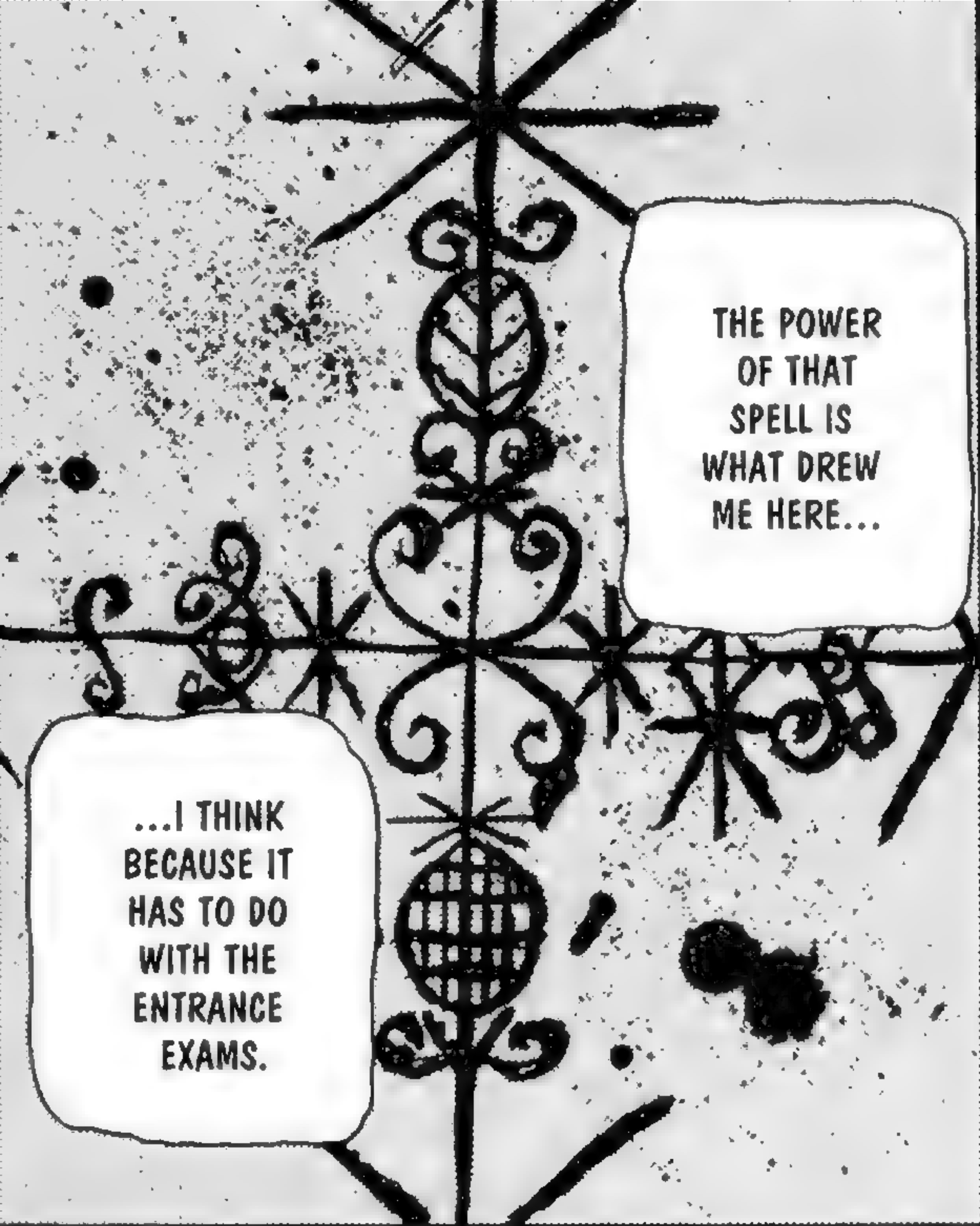
BETWEEN  
COMPETING  
WITH KATSUMI,  
AND THE WEIRD  
INCIDENTS...

SIGH,  
IT'S BEEN  
AWFUL.



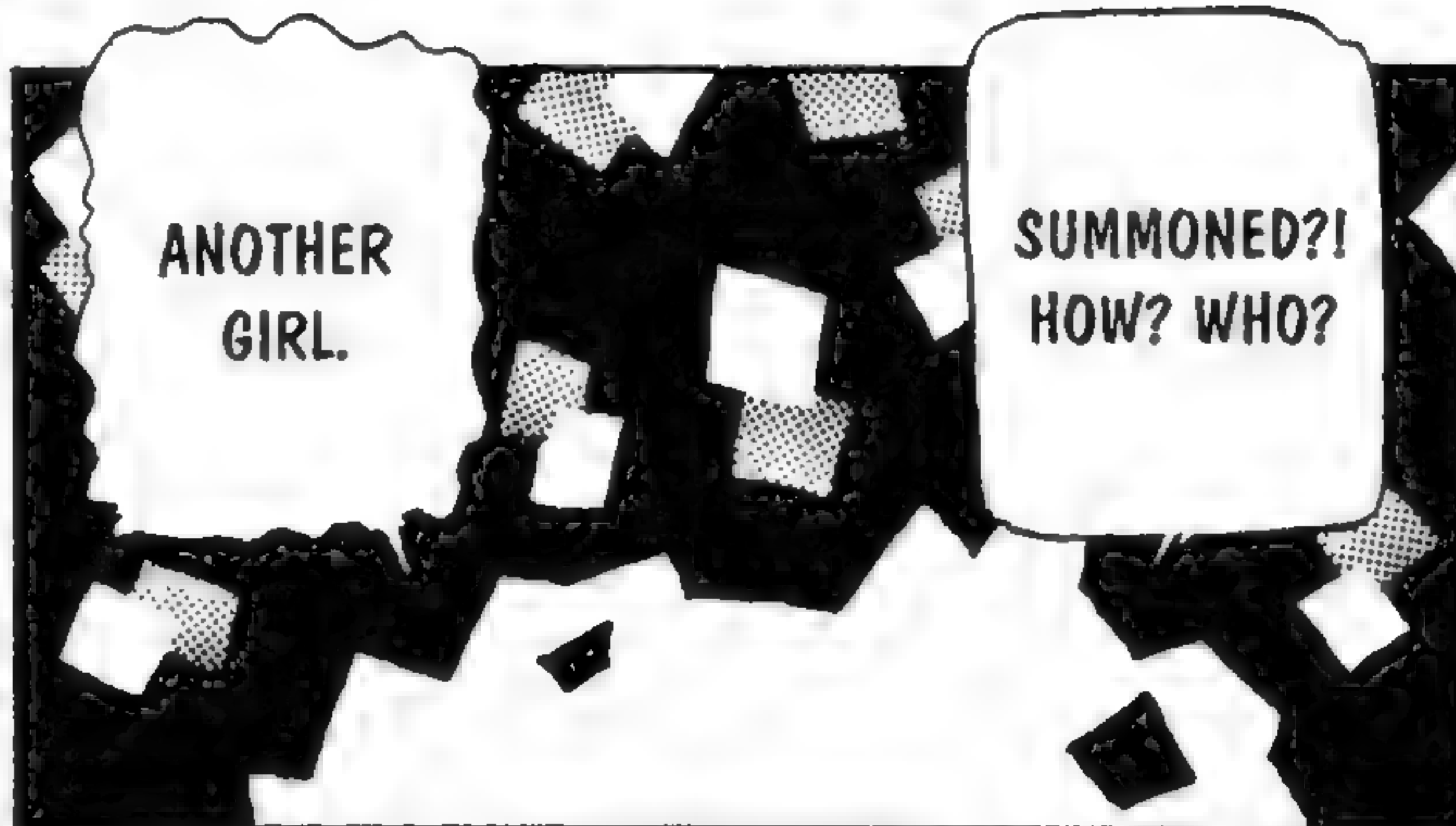






THE POWER  
OF THAT  
SPELL IS  
WHAT DREW  
ME HERE...

...I THINK  
BECAUSE IT  
HAS TO DO  
WITH THE  
ENTRANCE  
EXAMS.



ANOTHER  
GIRL.

SUMMONED?!  
HOW? WHO?



IT'S PROBABLY  
SOME KIND OF  
CURSE, CHARGED  
BY MALICE AND  
DIRECTED AT  
HER RIVAL.

SHE HAS THIS  
PIECE OF PAPER  
WITH A WEIRD  
SPELL ON IT.



BUT THE  
PRESSURE...WELL,  
I HAD A BREAKDOWN  
AND COMMITTED  
SUICIDE. I REGRET IT  
NOW, BELIEVE ME.

Y'SEE, I WAS  
A STUDENT  
HERE ABOUT  
5 YEARS AGO.



...THANKS  
TO HER.



WHAT? WAIT,  
THAT'S NOT IT  
AT ALL!

SO YOU'RE  
**ANGRY** AND  
WANT TO DRAG  
SOMEONE ELSE  
DOWN WITH  
YOU!



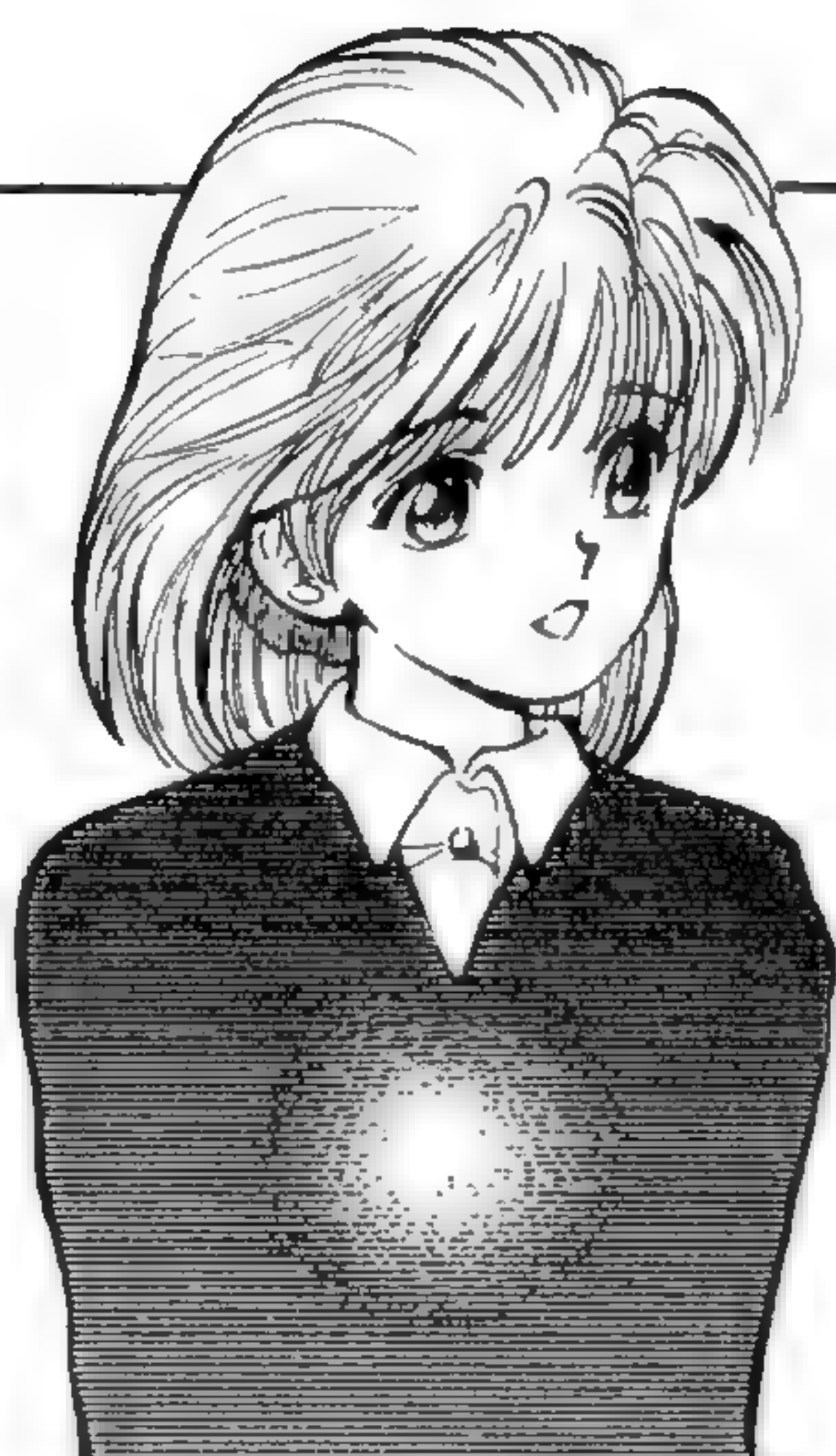
I DID HAUNT  
SOME STUDENTS  
AND PULL SOME  
PRANKS.

BUT THEN  
I CAME TO MY  
SENSES...

I MEAN, YEAH,  
I WAS ANGRY  
RIGHT AFTER  
MY DEATH.



EVERY TIME I SEE  
THAT SMILE, I FORGET  
ANY ANGER I STILL HAVE,  
AND MY HEART HEALS  
A LITTLE MORE.



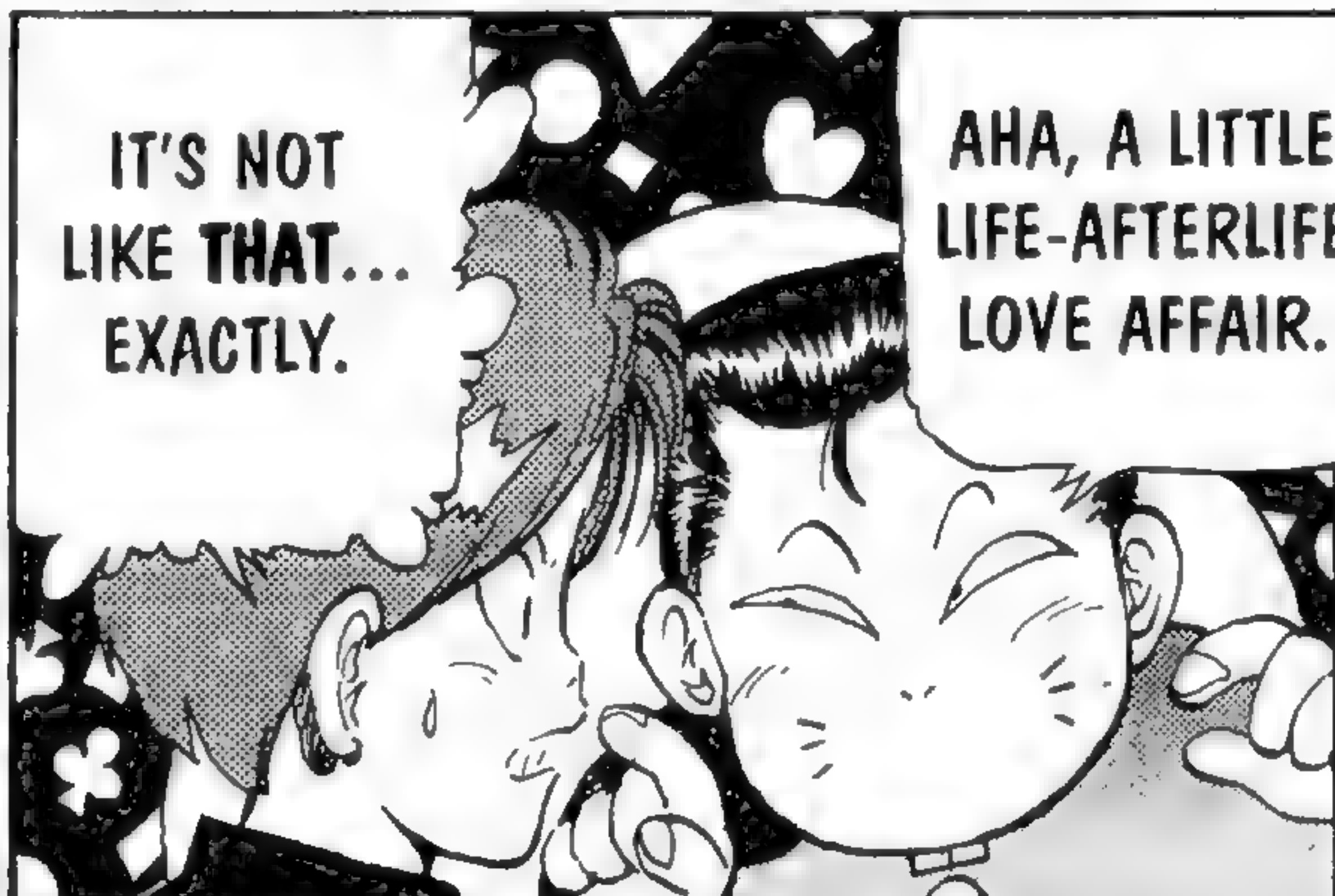
SHE'S SUCH A NICE,  
GENTLE PERSON,  
WITH A WARM  
SMILE.

SHE  
REDEEMED  
MY SOUL.



HER GOODNESS  
MADE ME  
ASHAMED OF  
THE ANGER  
I WAS  
CLINGING TO.

IT'S NOT  
LIKE THAT...  
EXACTLY.



AHA, A LITTLE  
LIFE-AFTERLIFE  
LOVE AFFAIR.

...IS THE  
PERSON SHE  
BELIEVES IS  
HER BEST  
FRIEND!



AND THE  
ONE WHO'S  
UNLEASHED  
IT...

AN EVIL,  
UNSEEN FORCE  
IS STALKING  
HER...

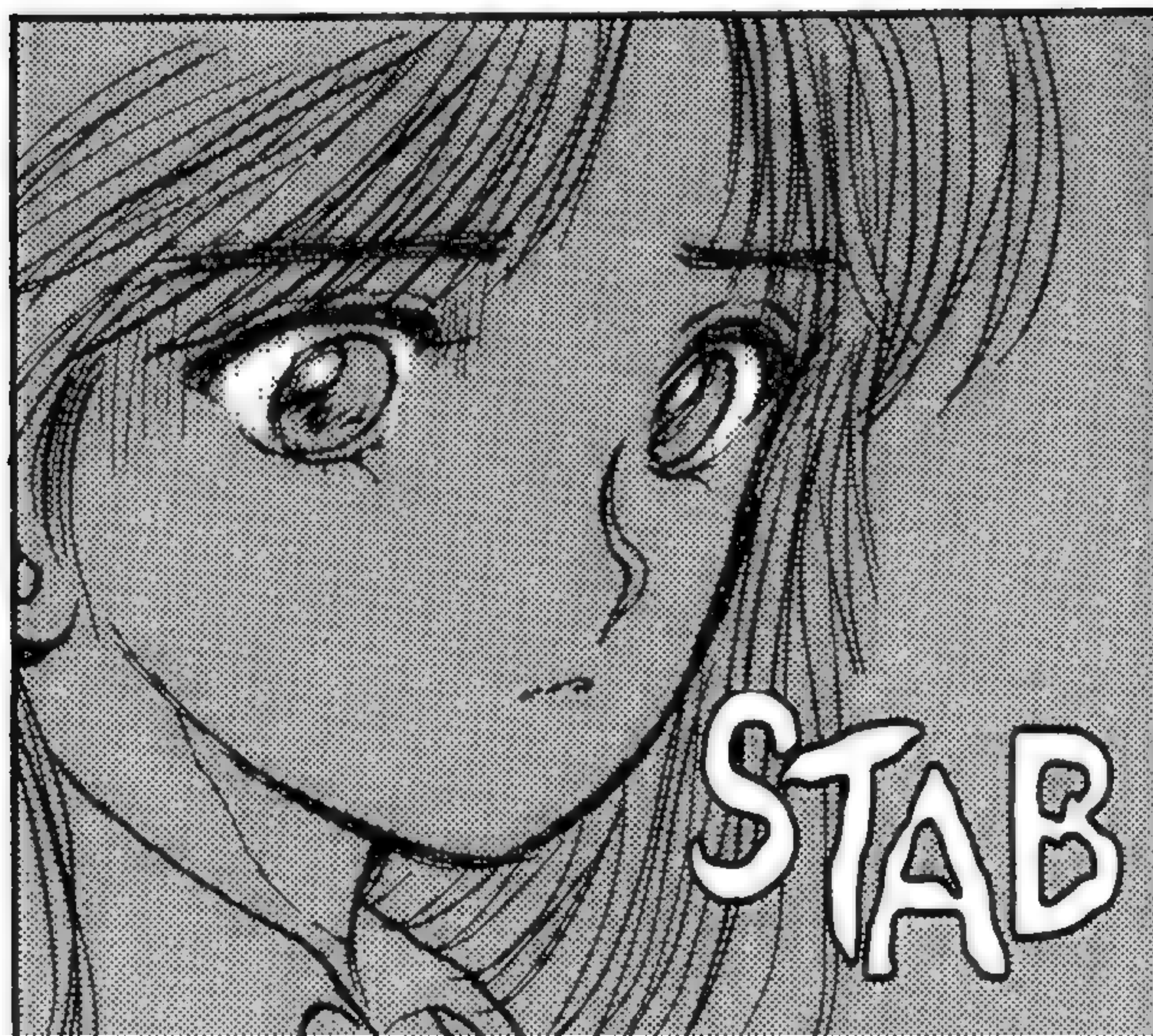


ALL I WANT NOW  
IS TO WARN HER  
OF THE DANGER  
SHE'S IN.

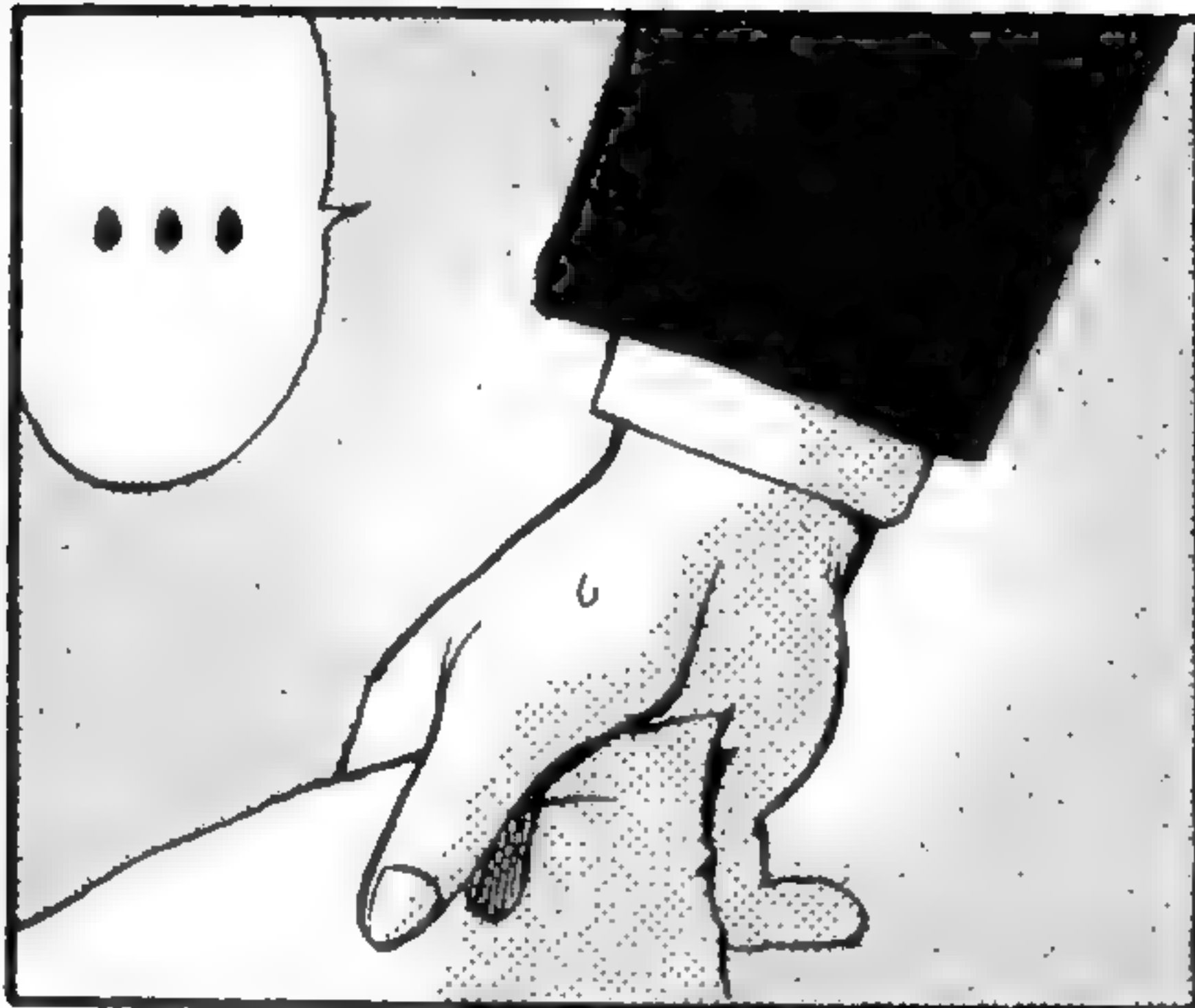










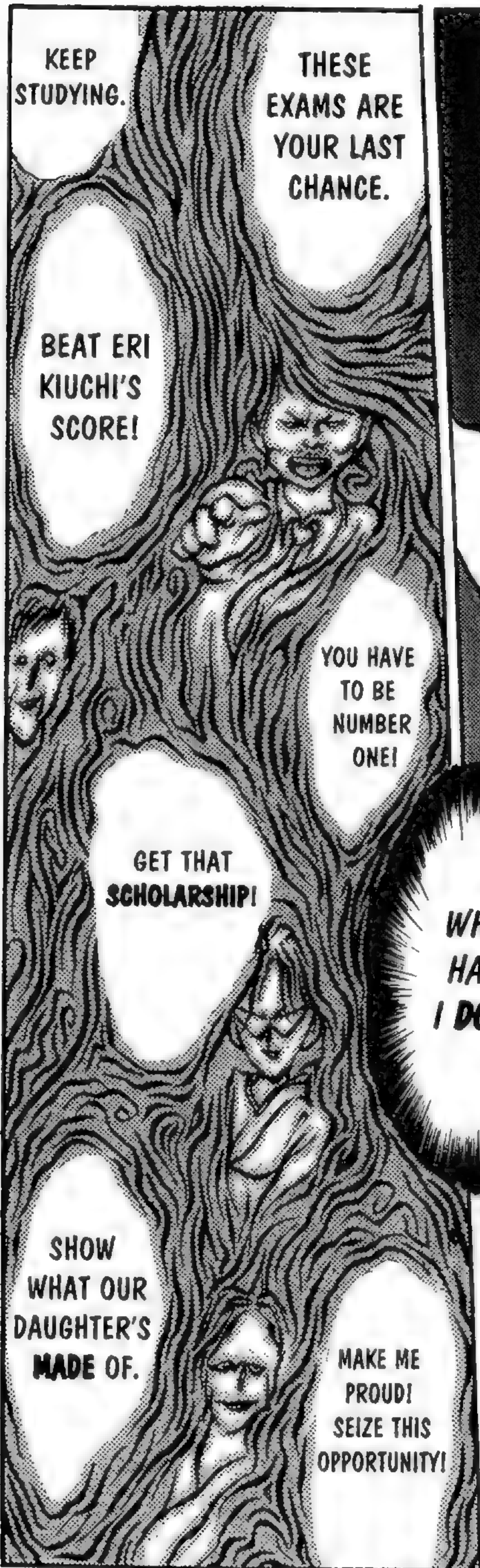


...



HOW ELSE  
COULD FRIENDS  
POSSIBLY COMPETE,  
RIGHT...?

I'M SURE  
THAT'S WHAT  
SHE HOPES  
FOR ME.



KEEP  
STUDYING.

THESE  
EXAMS ARE  
YOUR LAST  
CHANCE.

BEAT ERI  
KIUCHI'S  
SCORE!

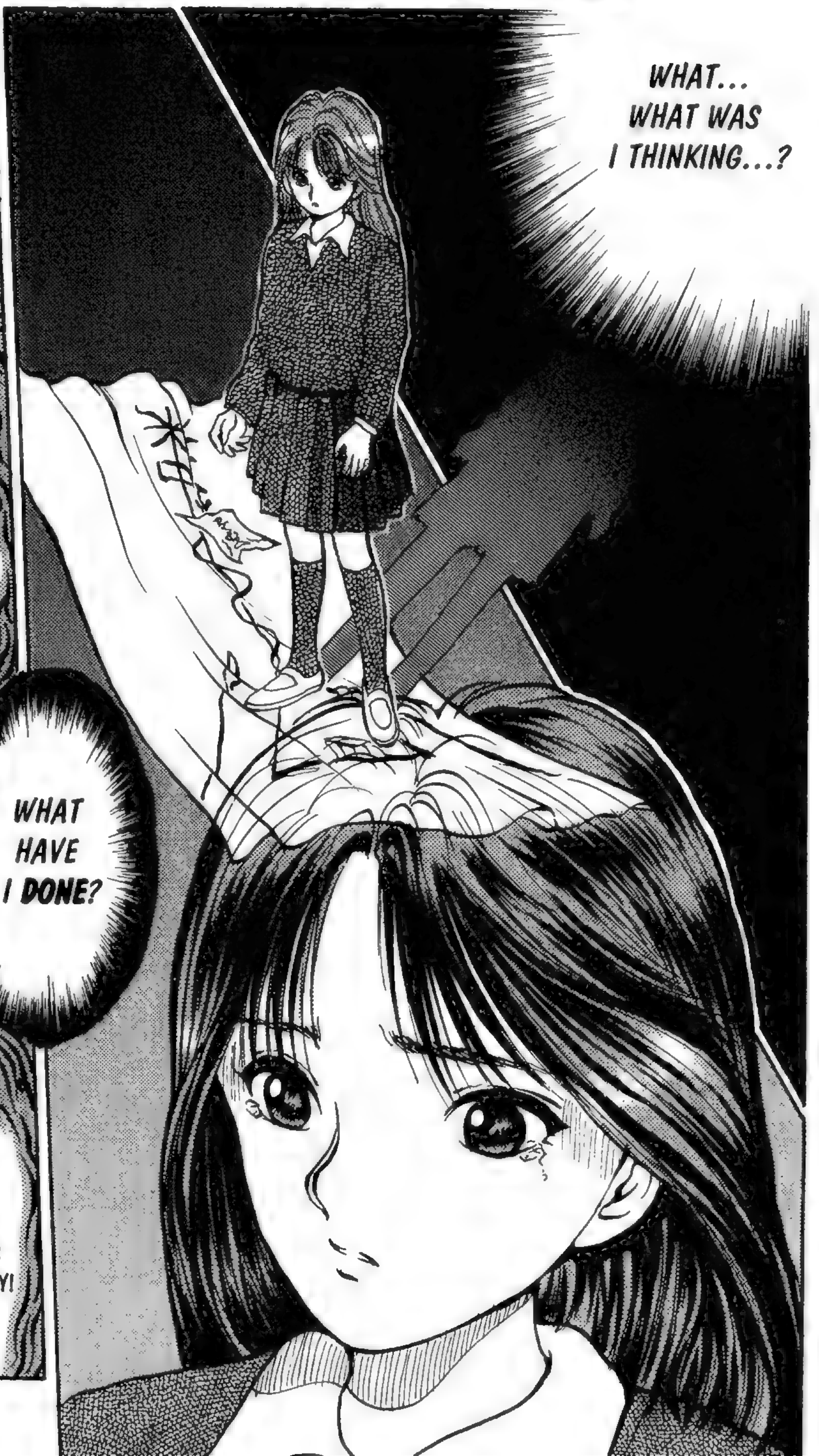
YOU HAVE  
TO BE  
NUMBER  
ONE!

GET THAT  
SCHOLARSHIP!

SHOW  
WHAT OUR  
DAUGHTER'S  
MADE OF.

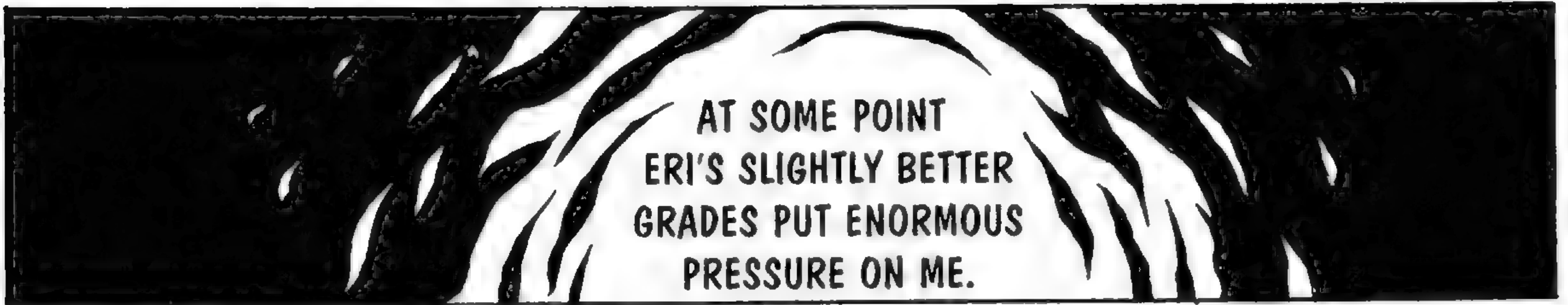
MAKE ME  
PROUD!  
SEIZE THIS  
OPPORTUNITY!

WHAT  
HAVE  
I DONE?

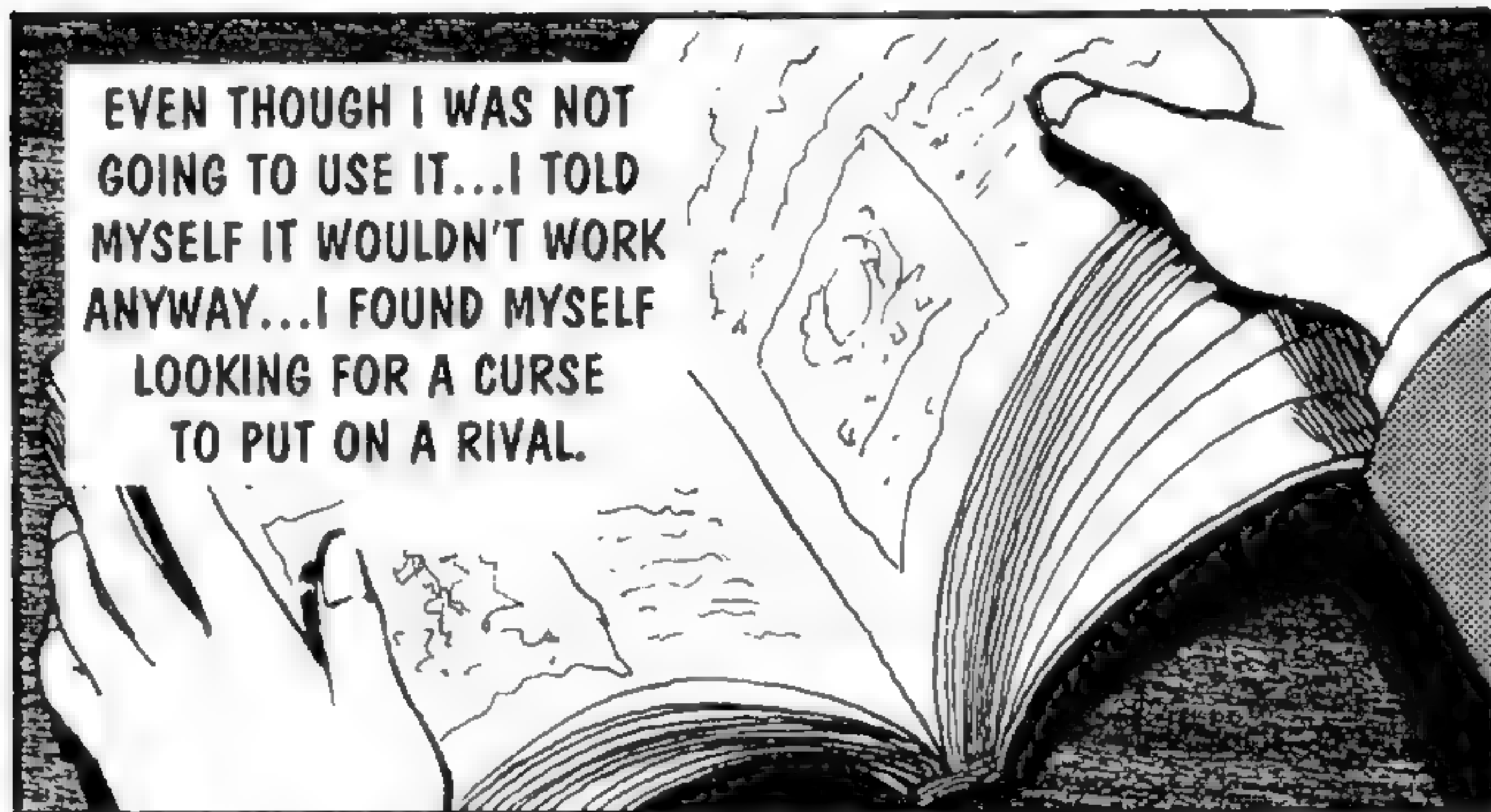


WHAT...  
WHAT WAS  
I THINKING...?

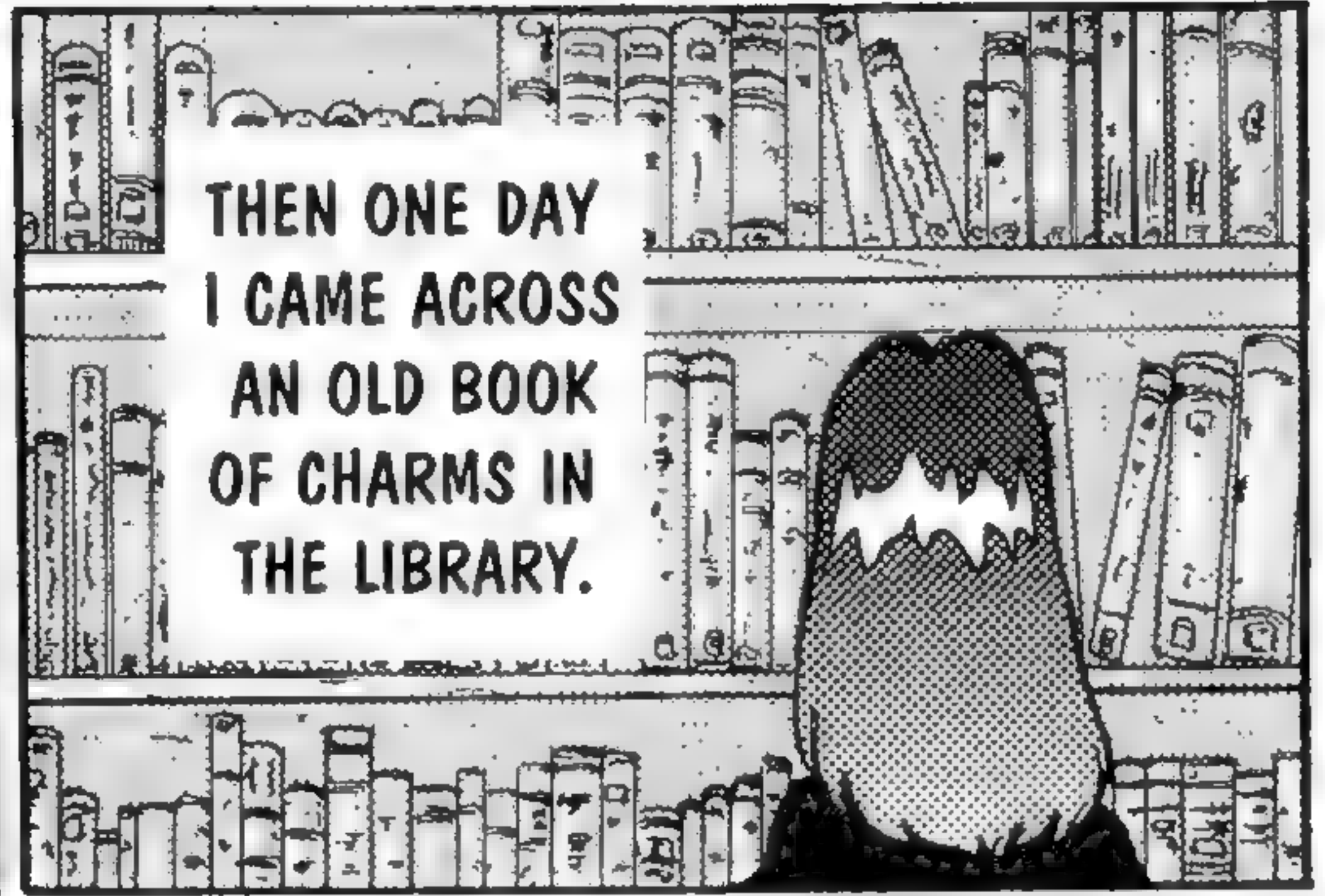




AT SOME POINT  
ERI'S SLIGHTLY BETTER  
GRADES PUT ENORMOUS  
PRESSURE ON ME.



EVEN THOUGH I WAS NOT  
GOING TO USE IT...I TOLD  
MYSELF IT WOULDN'T WORK  
ANYWAY...I FOUND MYSELF  
LOOKING FOR A CURSE  
TO PUT ON A RIVAL.



THEN ONE DAY  
I CAME ACROSS  
AN OLD BOOK  
OF CHARMS IN  
THE LIBRARY.



I'M SORRY!!  
ERI, I'M SO  
SORRY...

I...COULDN'T  
RESIST,  
SOMEHOW.



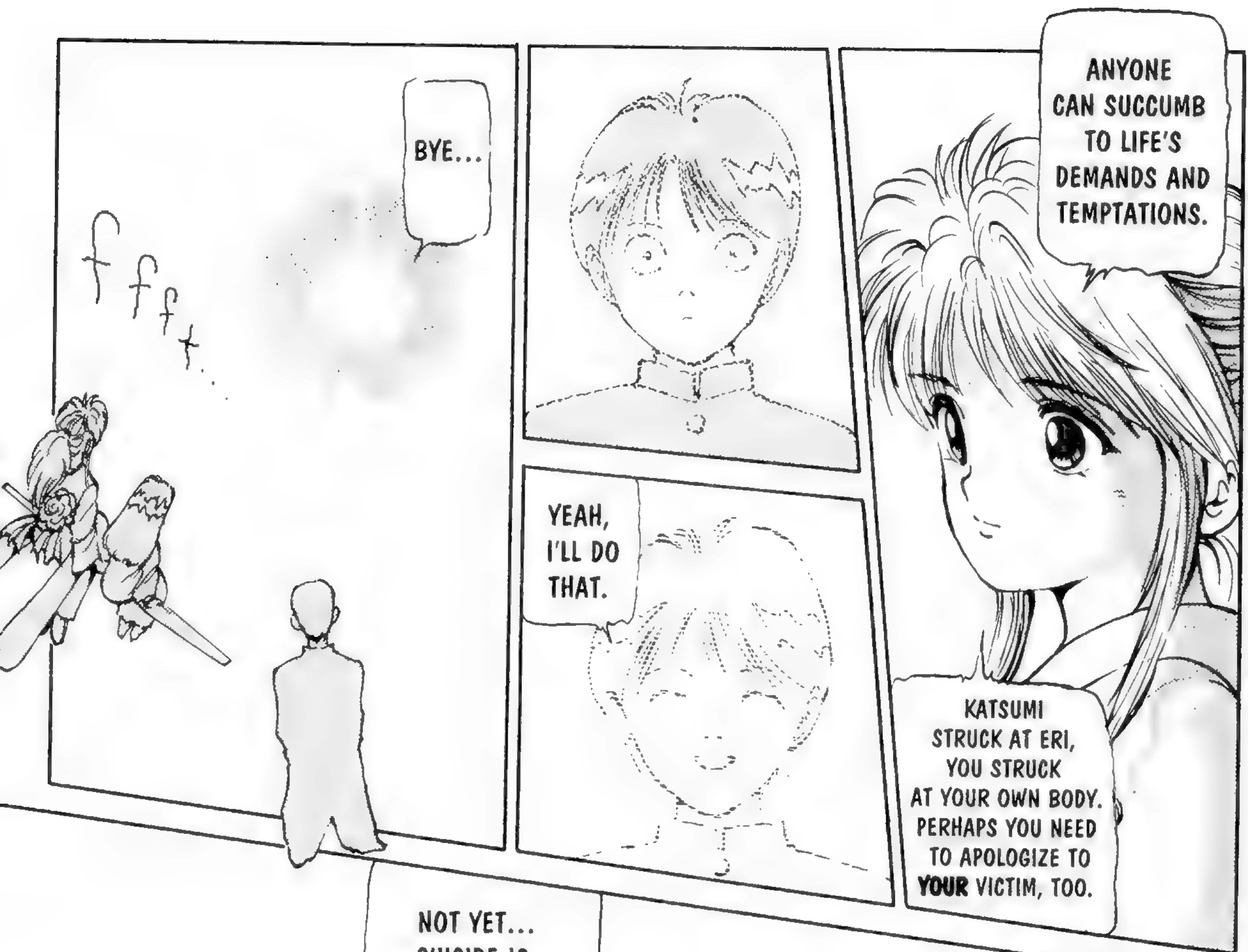
NOW ERI  
WILL BE OKAY.  
WHAT  
A RELIEF!

UNLIKE ME,  
SHE REALIZED  
HER MISTAKE  
BEFORE IT WAS  
TOO LATE.



GOOD...  
SHE RIPPED  
UP THE  
CURSE.





KATSUMI  
STRUCK AT ERI,  
YOU STRUCK  
AT YOUR OWN BODY.  
PERHAPS YOU NEED  
TO APOLOGIZE TO  
YOUR VICTIM, TOO.

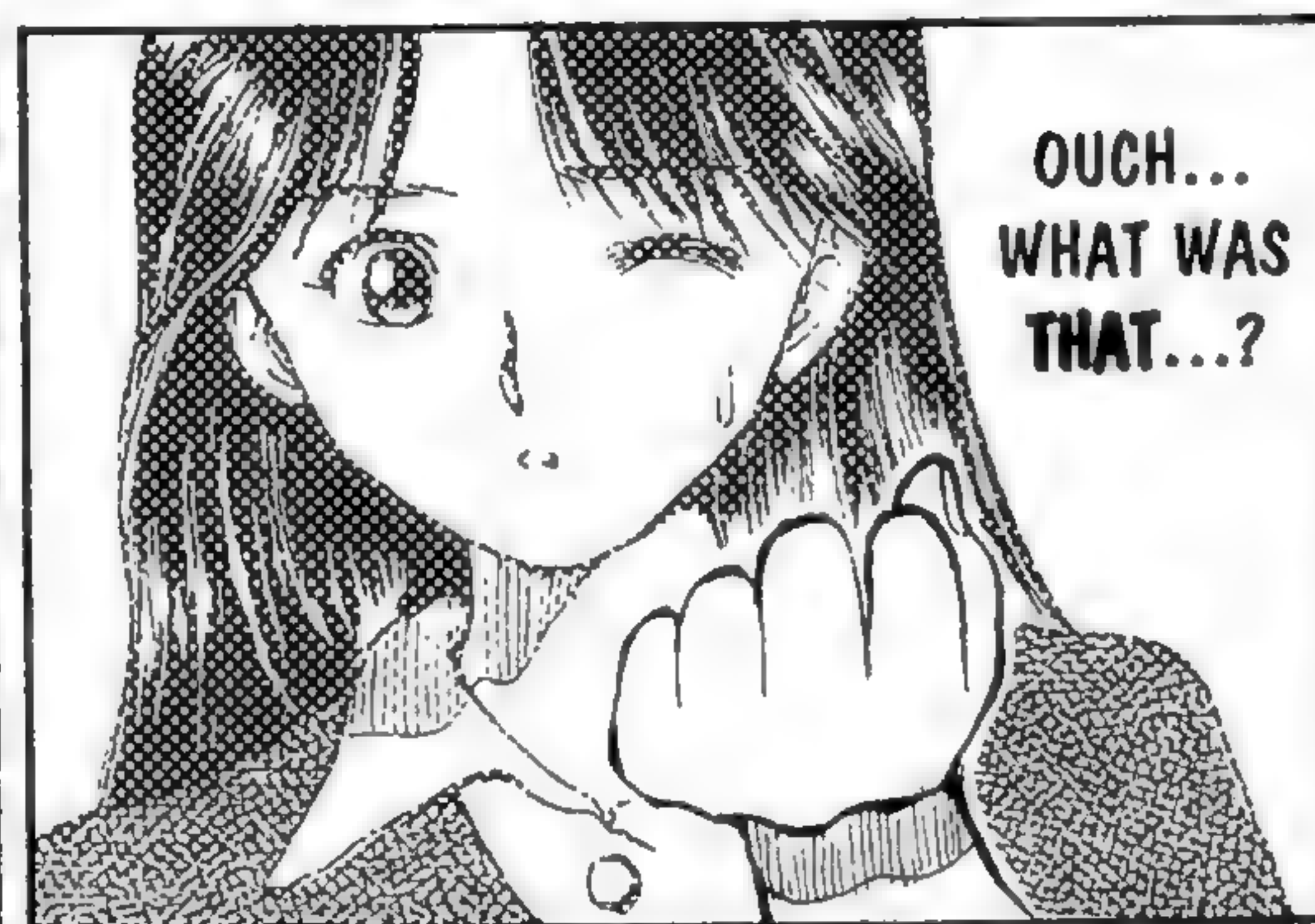
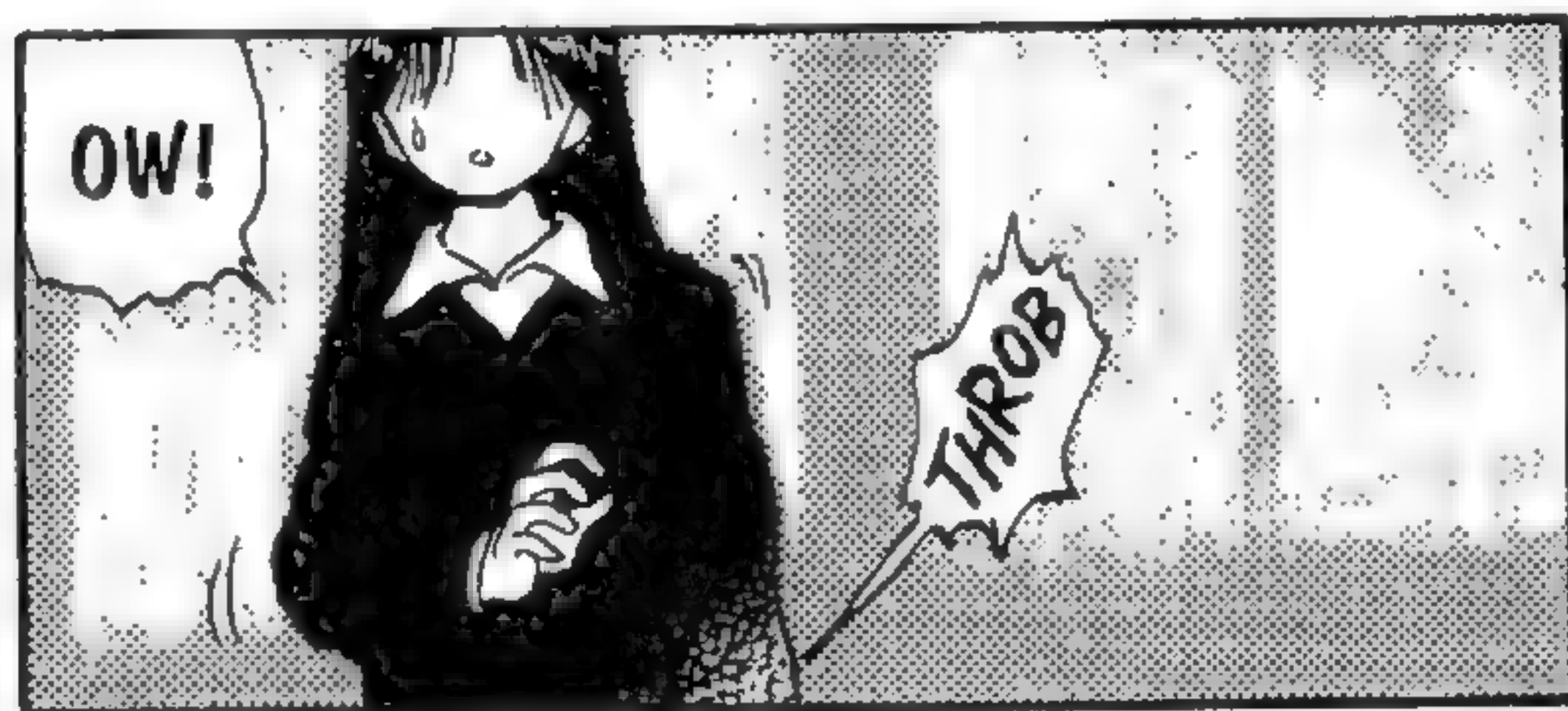
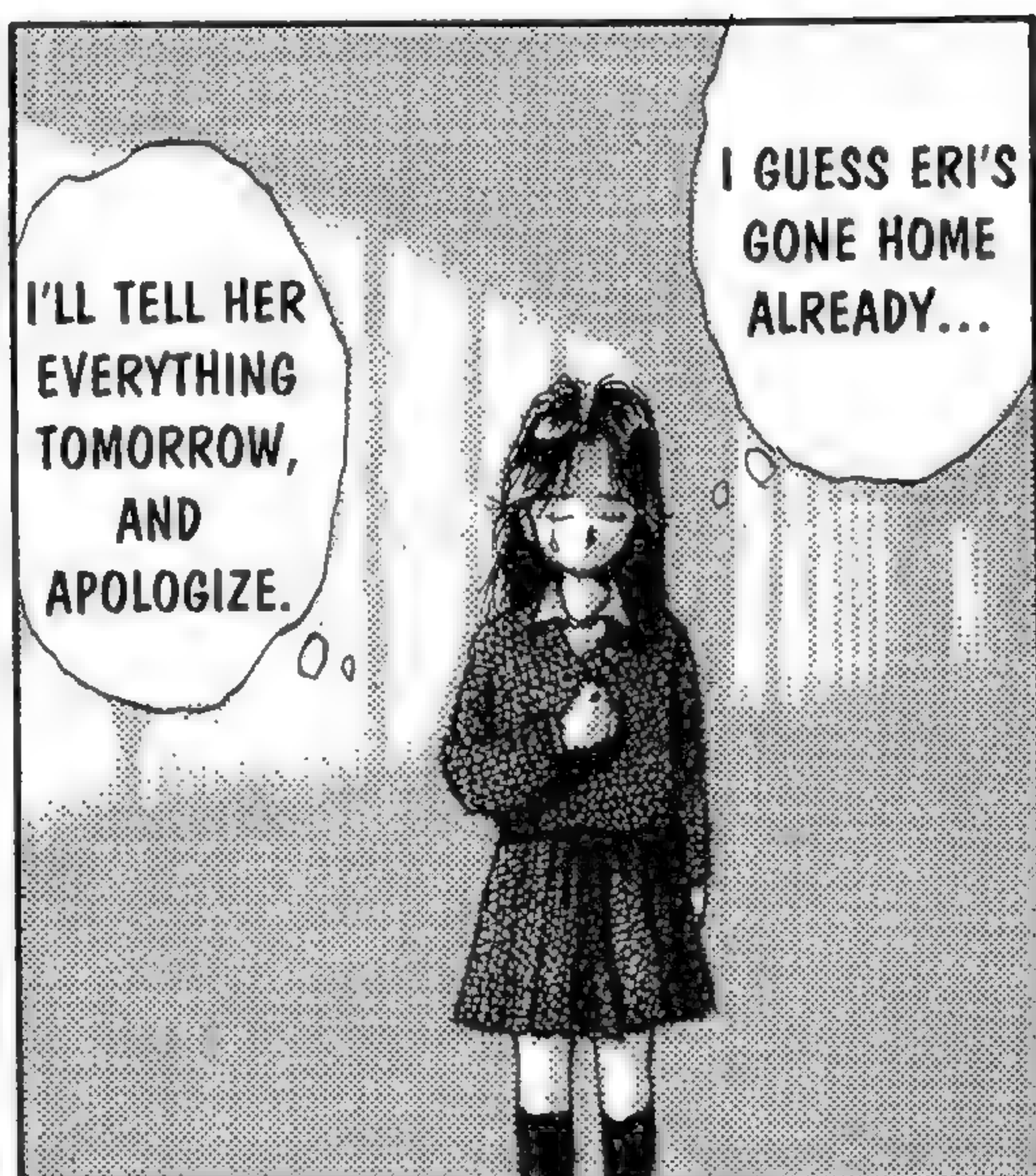
NOT YET...  
SUICIDE IS  
A PRETTY  
SERIOUS SIN.

BUT NOW HE  
KNOWS HOW  
TO ATONE FOR IT,  
AND ONE DAY HE  
WILL GO TO  
HEAVEN.

THAT IT?  
HE'S OFF  
TO REST  
IN PEACE?

CASE CLOSED,  
THEN.





















WHAT'S  
WRONG?

THE CURSE!  
IT DIDN'T  
STOP!



HUH?  
WHAT'RE  
YOU TALKIN'  
ABOUT?

IT'S  
NOT OVER  
YET!!



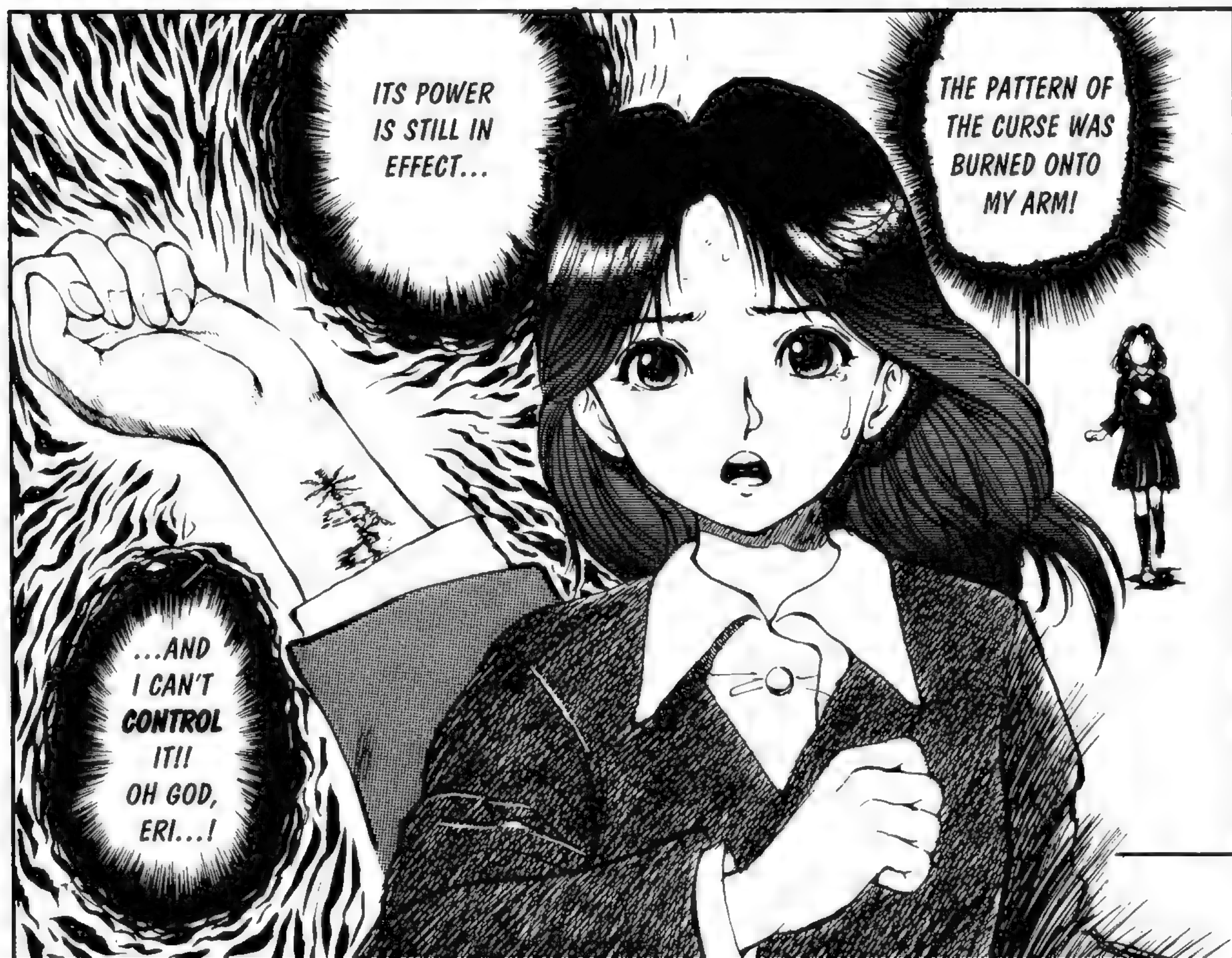
!

WE'LL  
BE THERE  
IN A  
SHAKE!

OKAY, KID!  
NO NEED  
TO SHOVE!

HURRY!  
PLEASE!

SHE'S IN  
DEADLY DANGER  
THIS VERY  
SECOND!!  
C'MON, YUSUKE!



ITS POWER  
IS STILL IN  
EFFECT...

THE PATTERN OF  
THE CURSE WAS  
BURNED ONTO  
MY ARM!

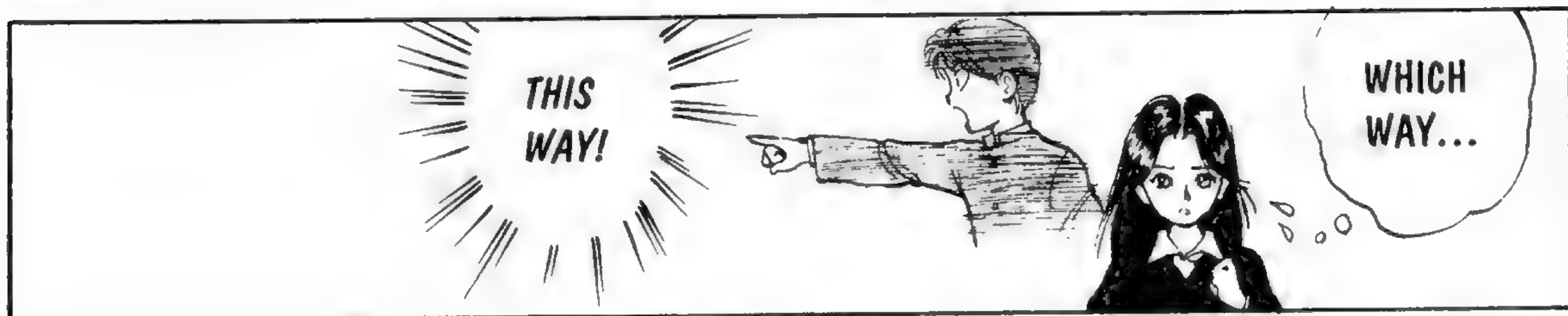
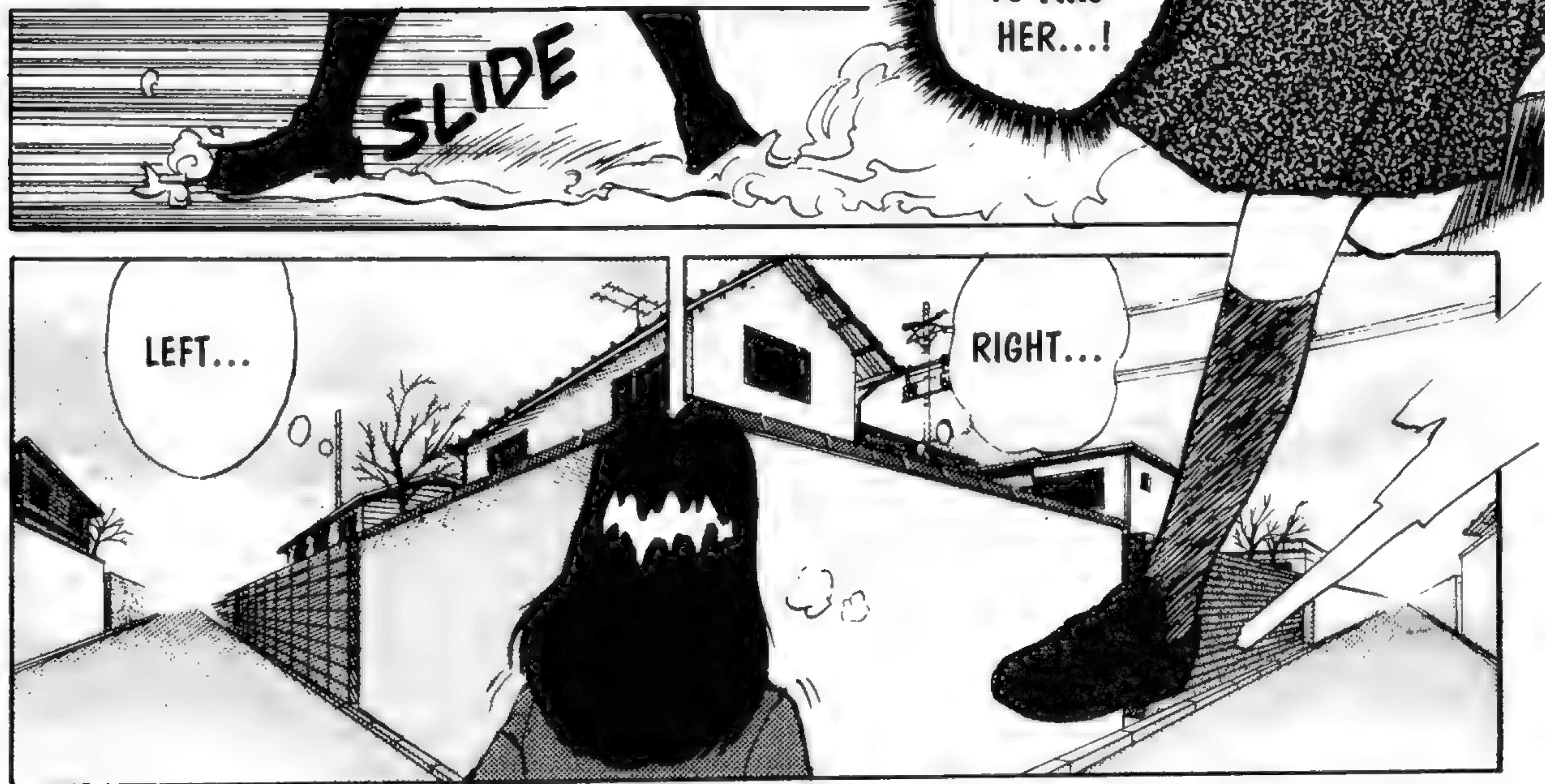
...AND  
I CAN'T  
CONTROL  
IT!!  
OH GOD,  
ERI...!



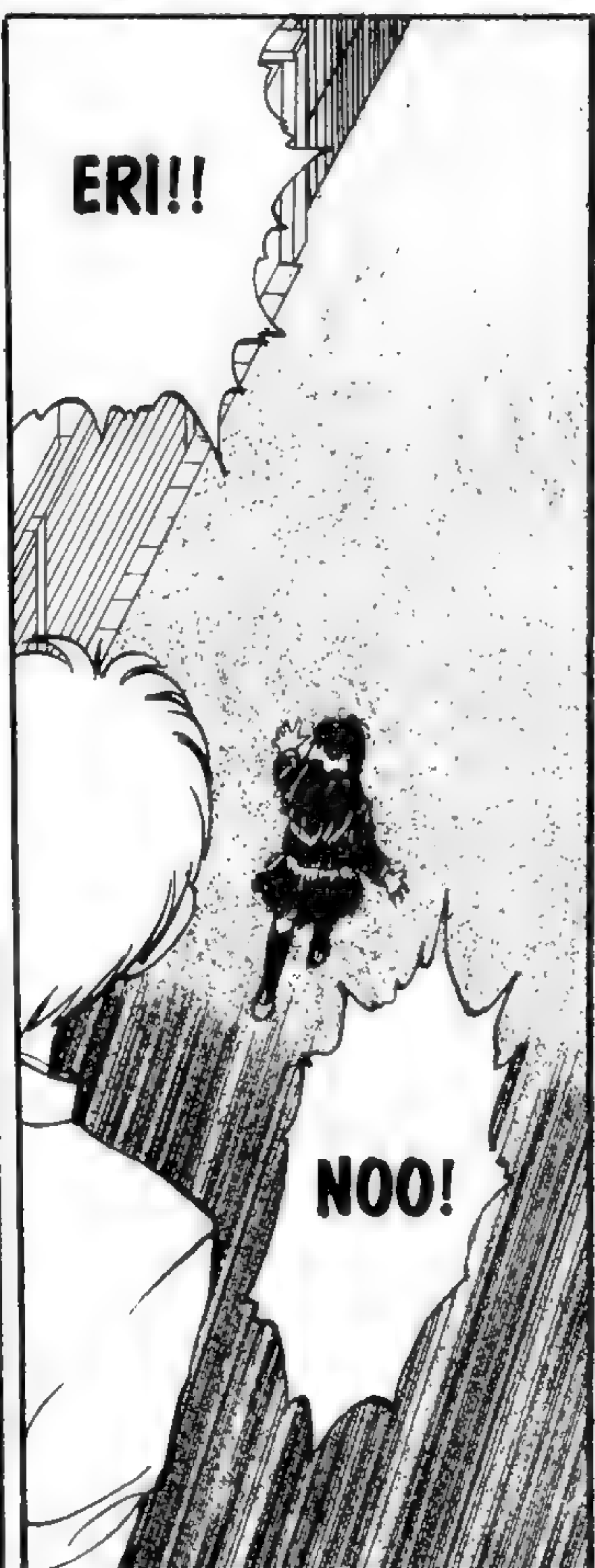
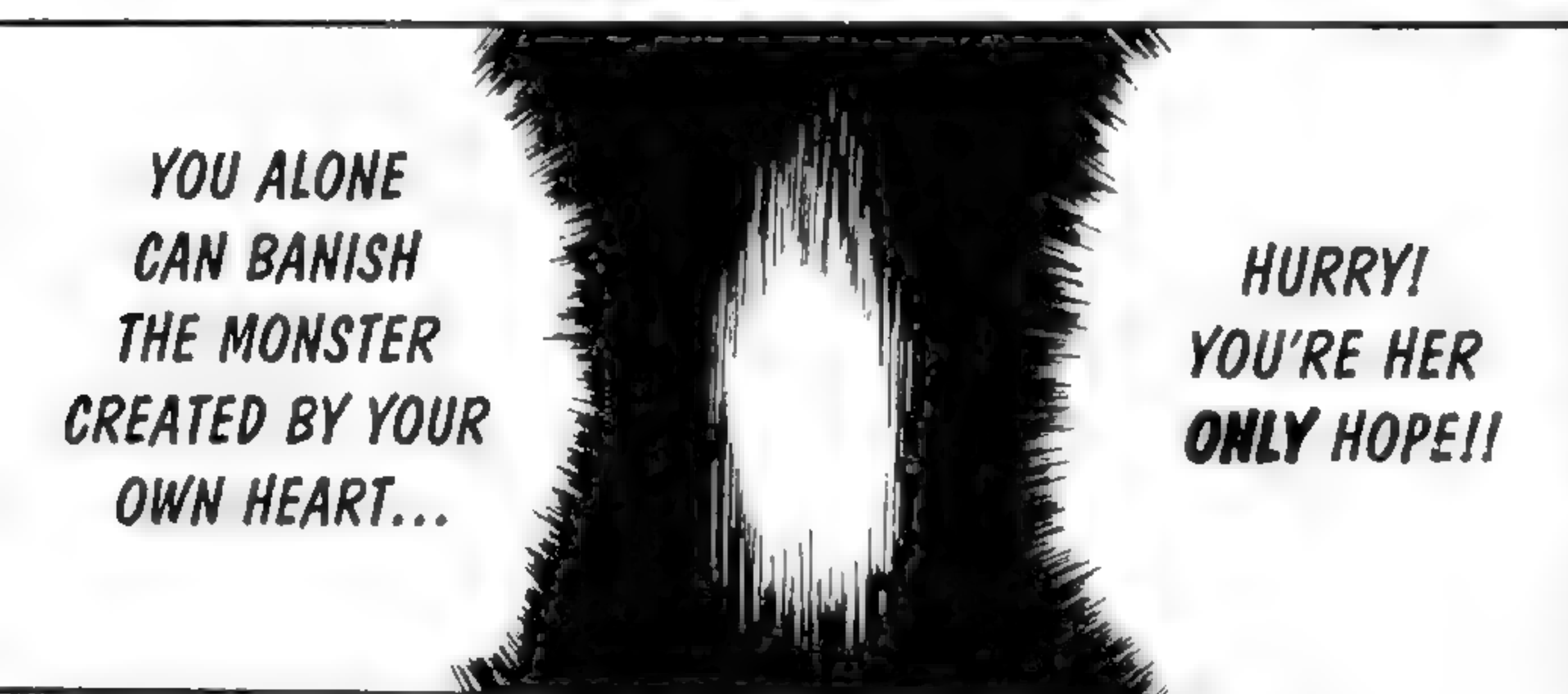
## CHAPTER 12: THE HAND OF EVIL



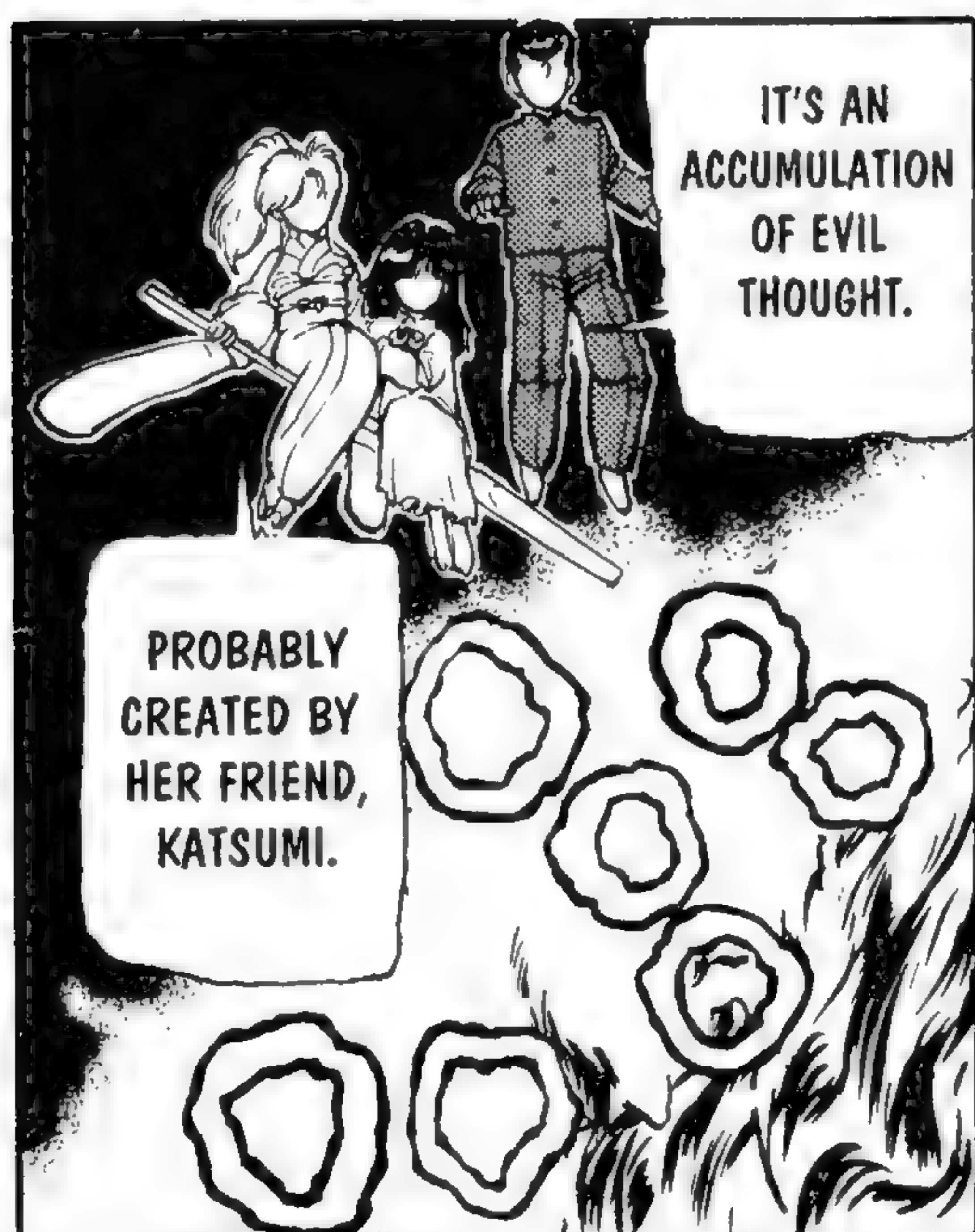




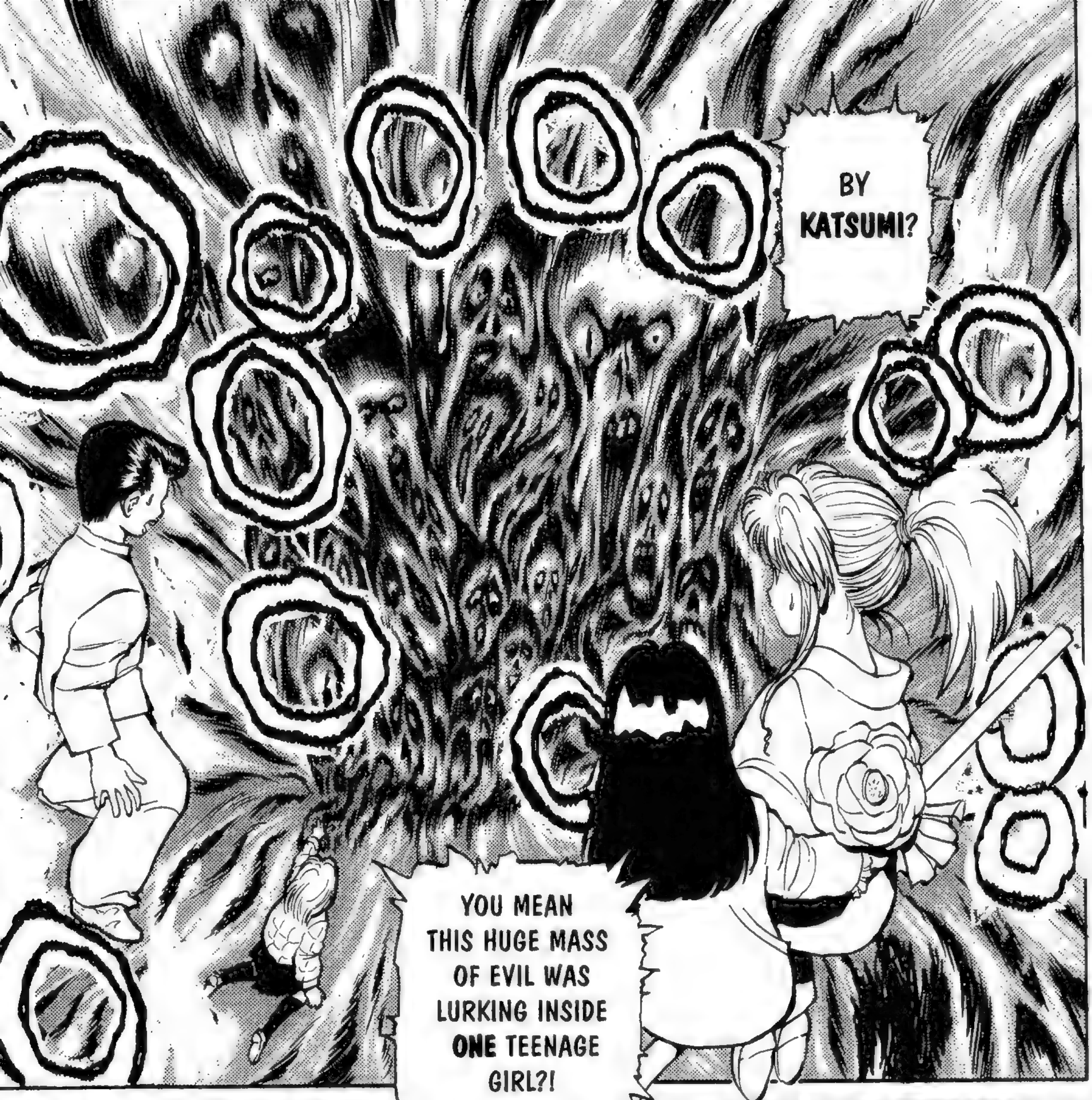












BY  
KATSUMI?

YOU MEAN  
THIS HUGE MASS  
OF EVIL WAS  
LURKING INSIDE  
ONE TEENAGE  
GIRL?!



SO, EVEN  
THOUGH SHE  
RIPPED THE  
CURSE UP...

NO, THE EVIL IN HER  
HEART WAS SMALL,  
JUST A BIT OF  
JEALOUSY. BUT SHE  
TRANSFERRED IT INTO  
SOMETHING TANGIBLE,  
THE CURSE.

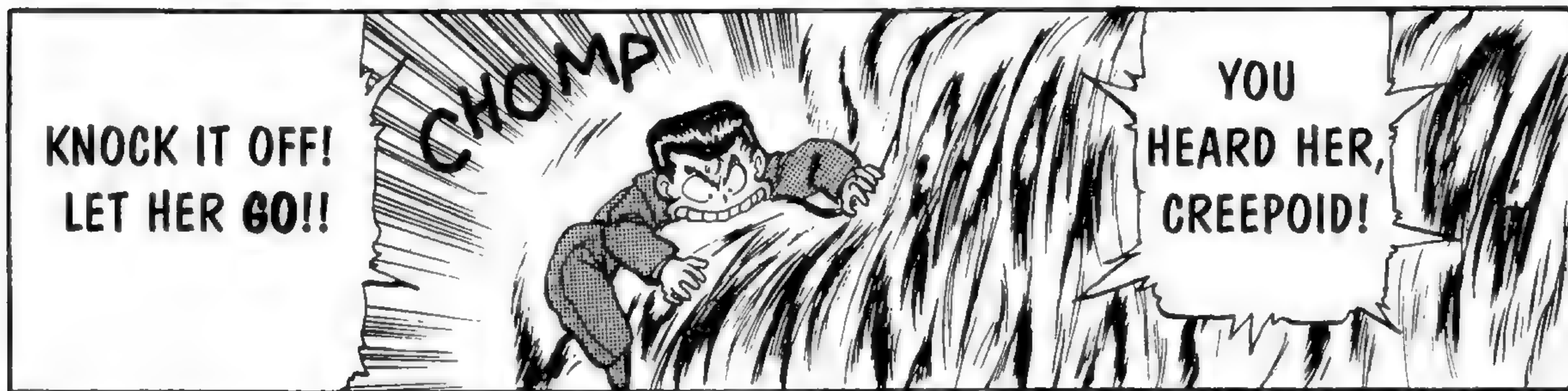
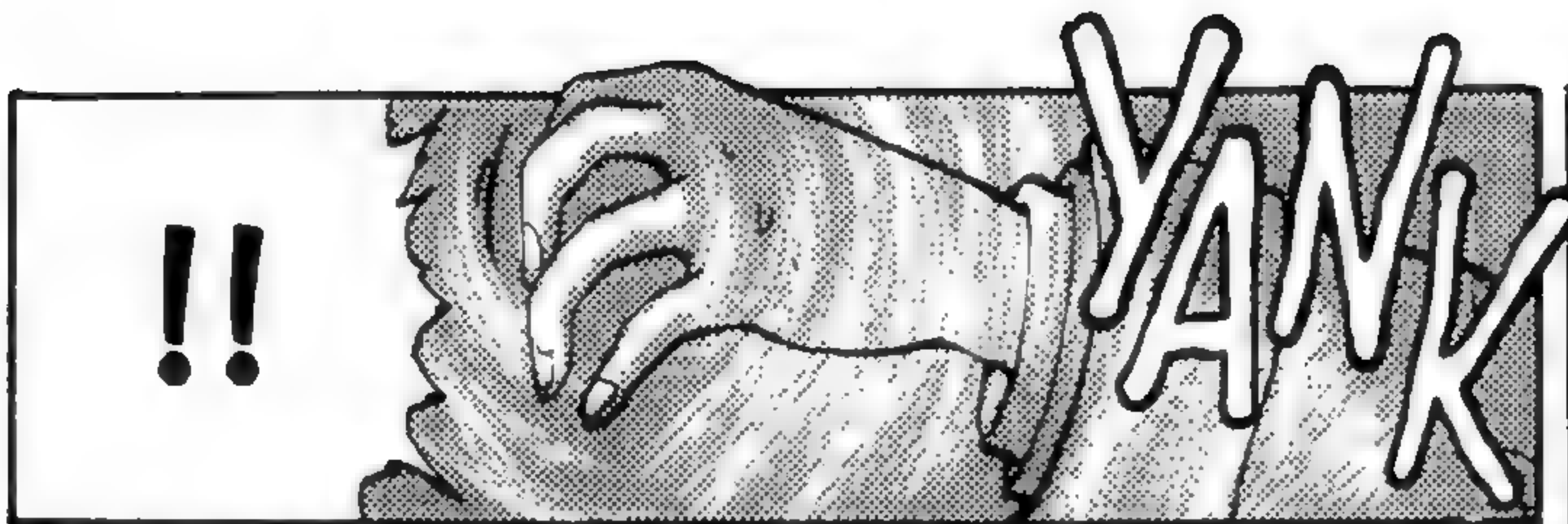
IT WAS TOO  
LATE. THE  
AMASSED EVIL  
TOOK OVER.

THE CURSE  
ENHANCED IT,  
ATTRACTING  
OTHER EVIL  
SPIRITS  
TO BOOST IT  
FURTHER!

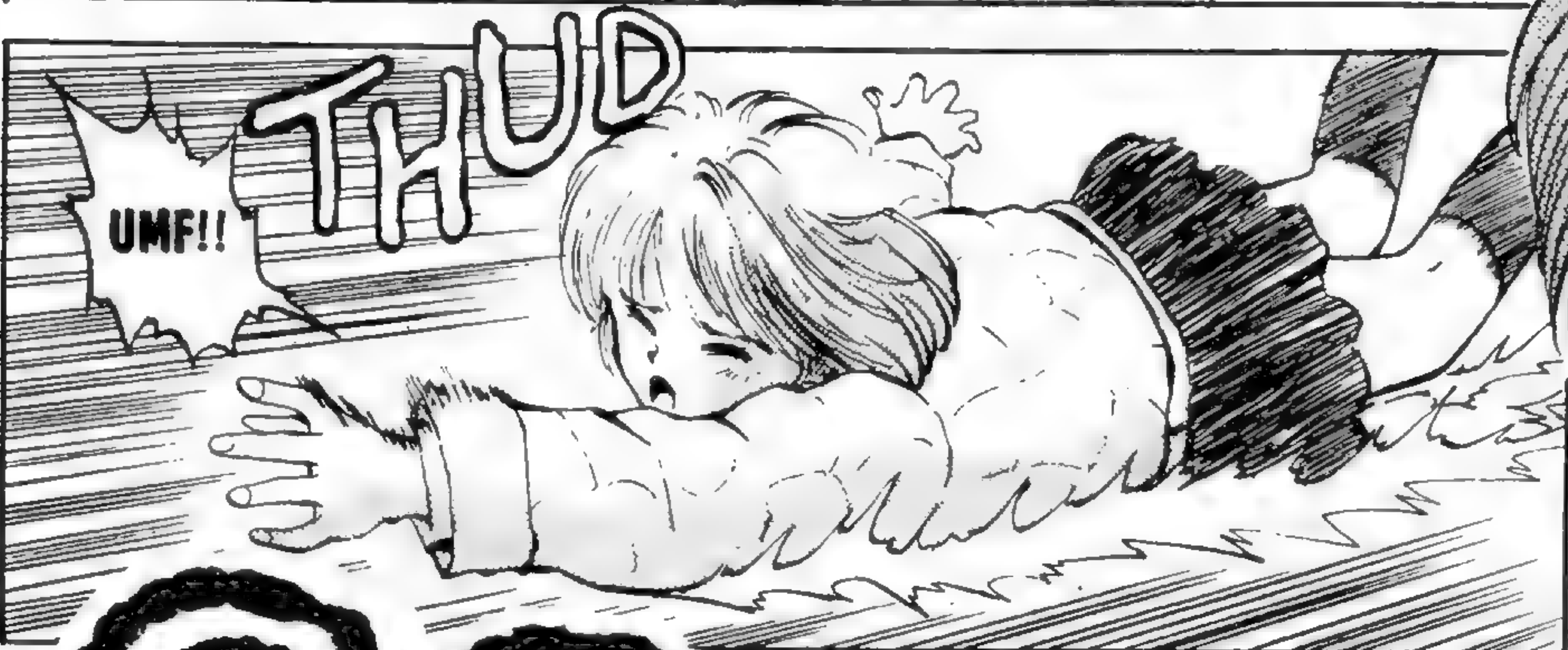




















YOUR HEART  
SUMMONED  
US TO  
FULFILL  
THIS!!

THIS IS  
WHAT YOU  
WANTED!!

THE  
REMOVAL  
OF YOUR  
RIVAL.

**NO!!**

I DON'T  
WANT  
THIS!!



I HATE  
THIS...  
MOM'S  
GONNA  
FREAK.

IF ONLY  
ERI  
WASN'T  
AROUND...

IF  
ONLY...  
SHE  
WAS...

**NO...!!**

**DON'T  
THINK LIKE  
THAT!**

**DON'T  
START DOWN  
THAT PATH!**

THAT'S...  
THAT'S ME IN  
GRADE SCHOOL...  
I'VE JUST HEARD  
ERI GOT A BETTER  
SCORE THAN ME  
ON YET ANOTHER  
TEST...



ALWAYS SECOND BEST,  
AND I'M VERY  
BITTER...BECAUSE  
I KNOW MY MOM WILL  
YELL AT ME FOR  
COMING UP SHORT  
AGAIN.

YOU CALLED  
US HERE,  
KATSUM!

OUR  
WHOLE  
LIVES...

...I'VE TRIED  
TO PROTECT  
ERI!

...



SSH, IT'S  
OKAY!

OH  
KATSUMI,  
I...

THINK  
YOU'RE  
SUCH  
TOUGH  
GUYS?!

HEY,  
WHAT ARE  
YOU  
DOING?!

OH...ERI'S BEING TEASED AGAIN.  
I DON'T FEEL SO BAD NOW...  
I JUST WANT TO HELP  
MY FRIEND.

I'LL KICK  
THEIR  
BUTTS.

WHENEVER  
THEY PICK  
ON YOU,  
JUST  
CALL ME.

RUN!!

CRUD, IT'S  
KATSUMI.

I FEEL VERY BAD  
FOR HAVING HAD  
THE THOUGHTS I HAD.  
ERI'S MELTED AWAY...  
ALL THE AWFULNESS...

I'M  
SORRY  
...

I WISH  
I WAS  
STRONGER,  
MORE LIKE  
YOU.

I HATE MAKING  
YOU WORRY  
ABOUT ME,  
KATSUMI.

FOR WHAT?  
ME STICKING  
UP FOR  
YOU?

C'MON,  
THAT'S WHAT  
FRIENDS  
ARE FOR!

I'M  
SORRY...

...BUT ALL ALONG,  
SHE WAS  
HELPING ME.

KATSUMI.

I...THOUGHT  
I WAS HELPING  
ERI...

I'M THE WEAK ONE,  
ERI! WILL YOU EVER  
FORGIVE ME?!





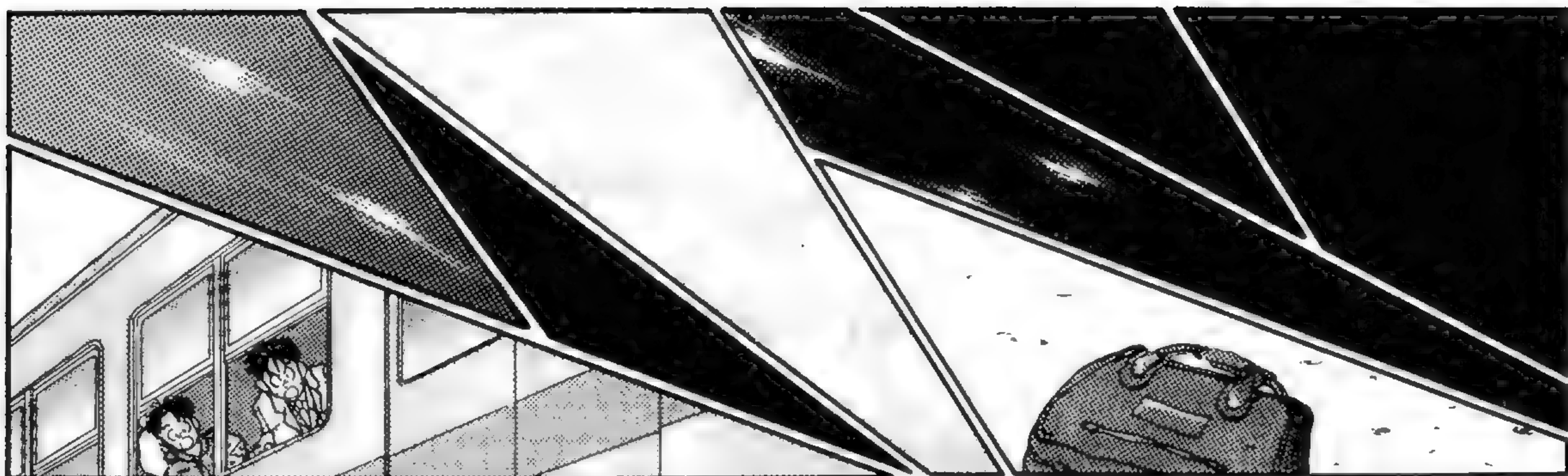
**I DON'T  
CARE WHAT  
HAPPENS  
TO ME!!**

**I MUST FIGHT  
THE CURSE...I  
MUST...**

**I DON'T CARE  
WHAT HAPPENS  
TO ME!!**

**I MUST  
...!!**













YOU BOTH GOT  
PERFECT SCORES  
IN ALL SUBJECTS!

YEEHAH!  
THIS IS JUST  
WONDERFUL!

AND  
SO...



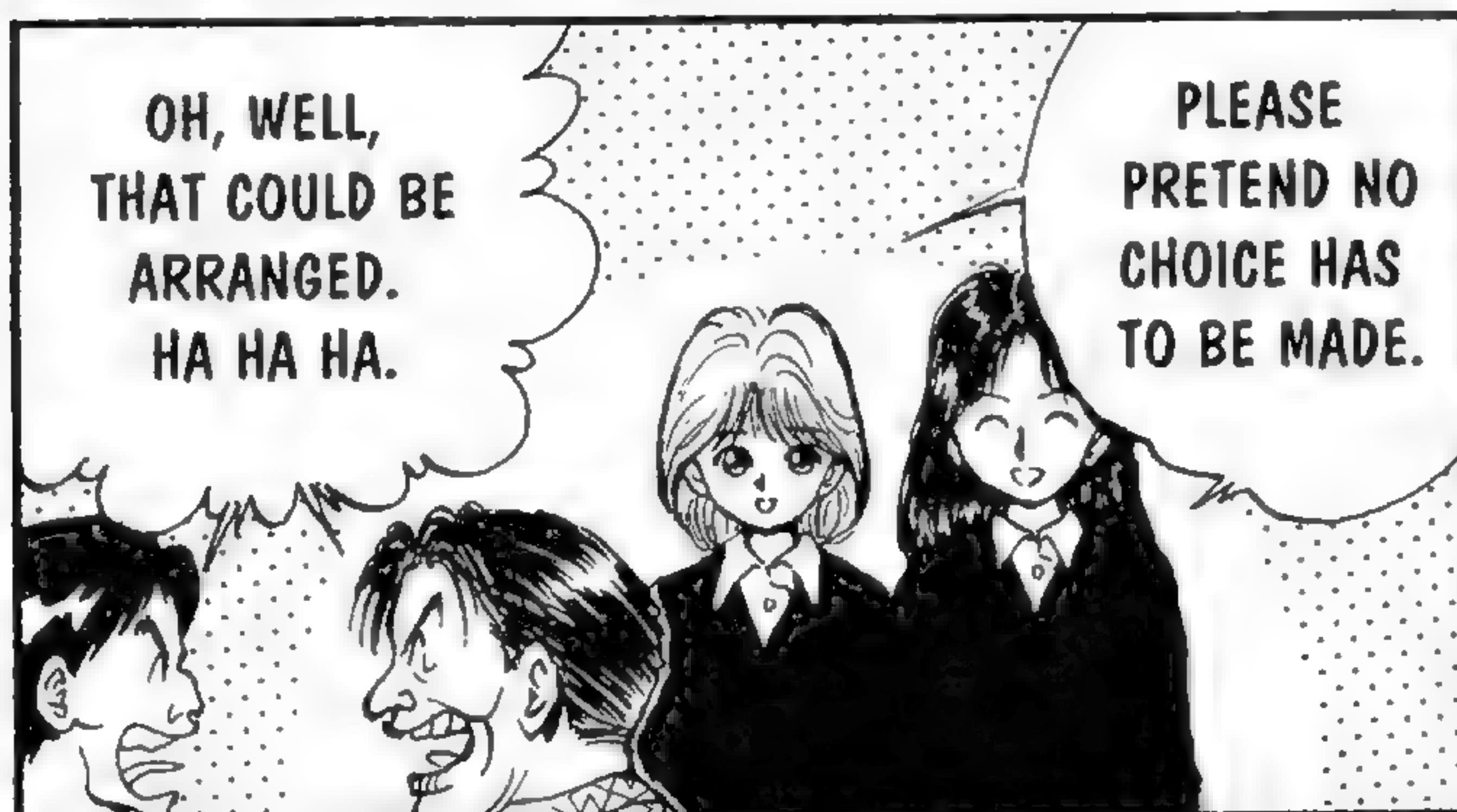
HM? INDEED?  
GREAT, LET'S  
HEAR IT.

WE ACTUALLY  
HAVE A REQUEST  
ABOUT THAT...



AND WHICHEVER  
OF YOU GOES,  
THE OTHER WILL  
HAVE NO TROUBLE  
SECURING A PLACE  
IN ANOTHER FINE  
SCHOOL.

EITHER ONE OF  
YOU WILL BE  
A SHOO-IN  
CANDIDATE FOR  
N\_\_\_\_ HIGH  
SCHOOL.



OH, WELL,  
THAT COULD BE  
ARRANGED.  
HA HA HA.

PLEASE  
PRETEND NO  
CHOICE HAS  
TO BE MADE.



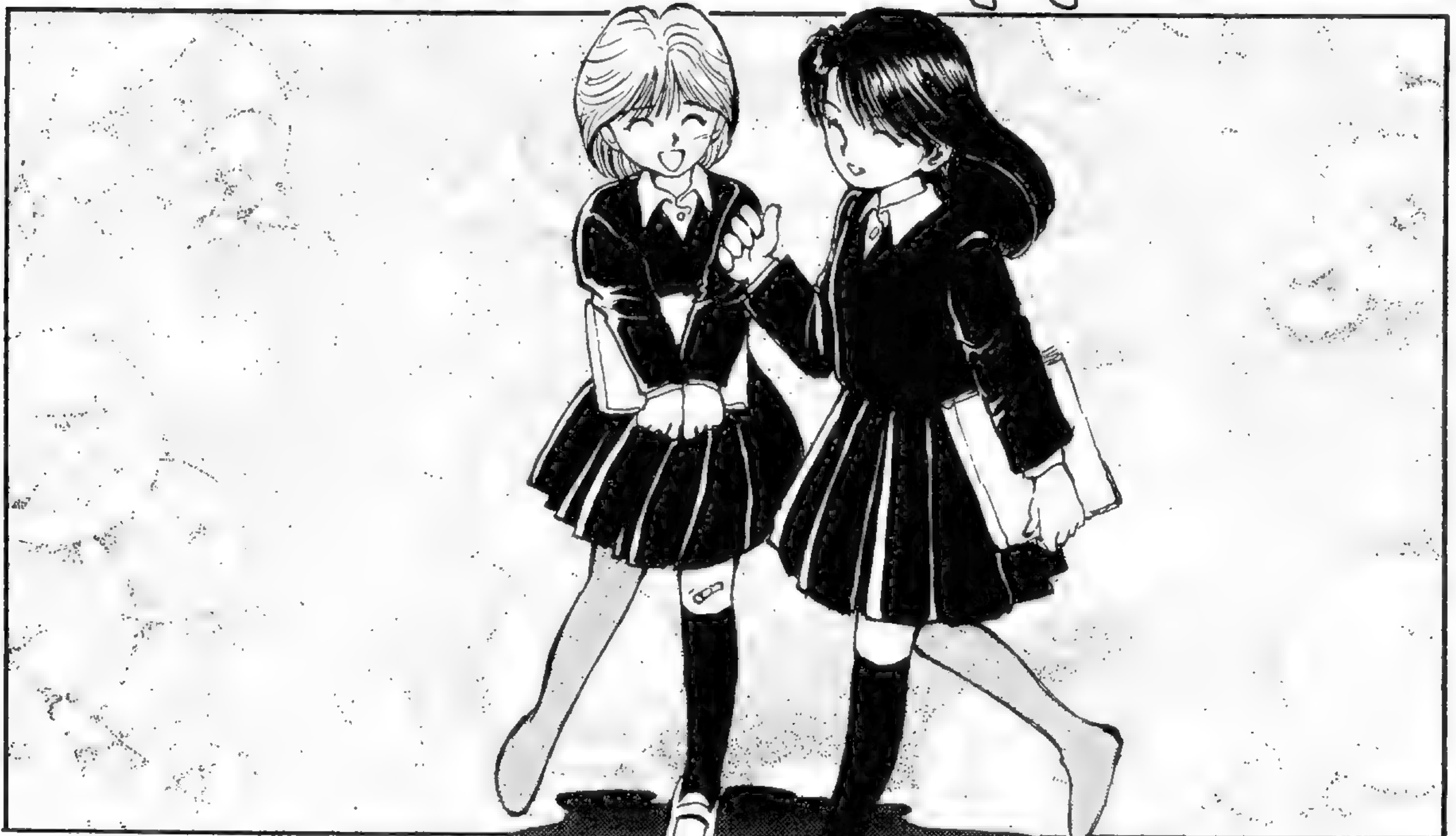
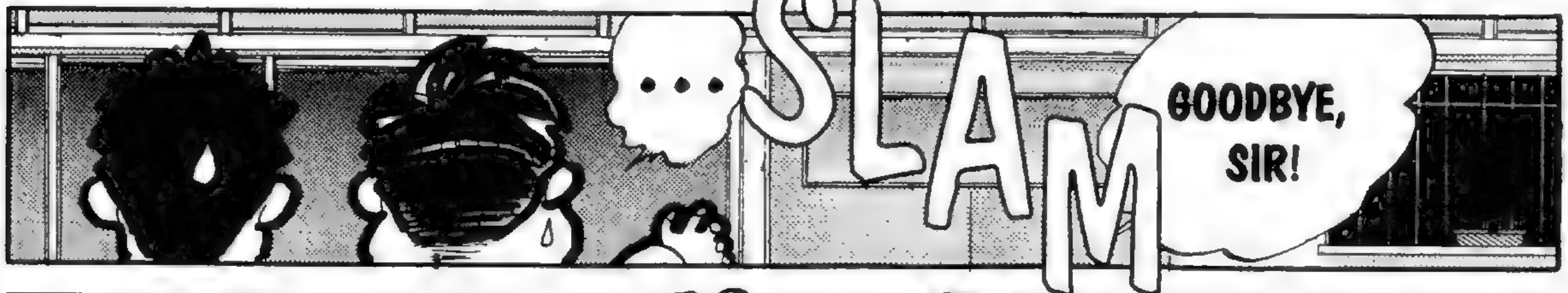
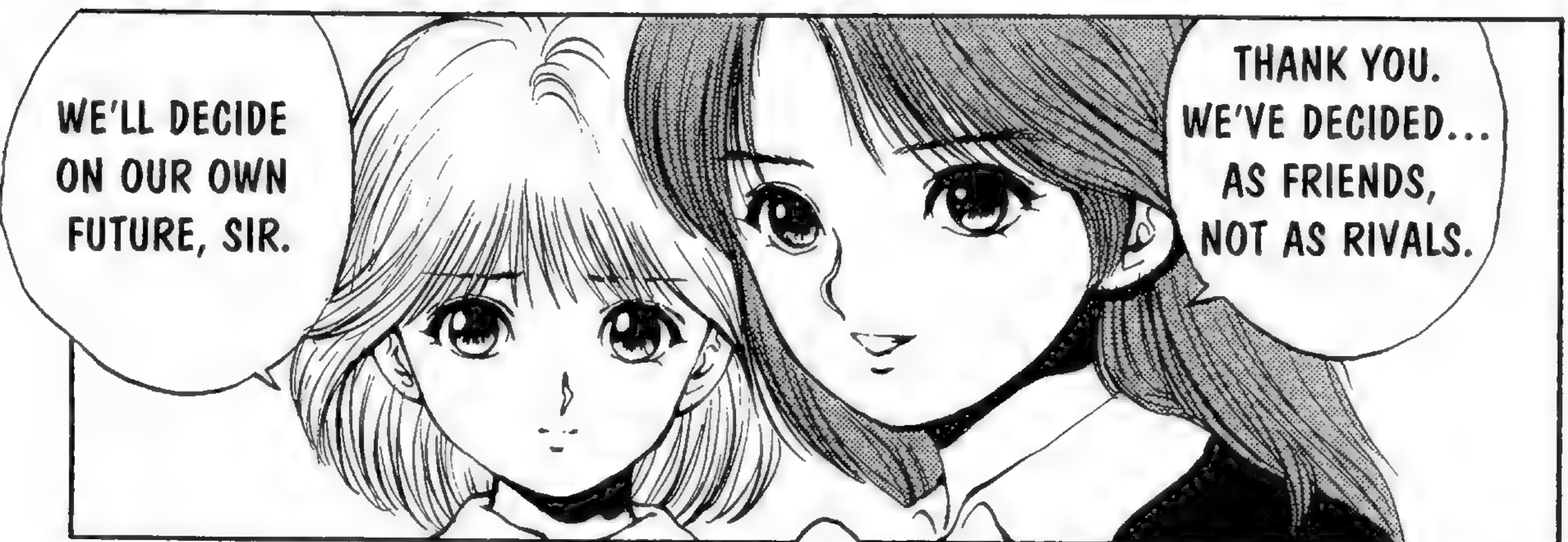
HM?



WE'VE BOTH  
DECIDED TO GO  
TO S\_\_\_\_ HIGH  
SCHOOL, THE  
ALL-GIRLS  
SCHOOL.

SAY  
WHAT?!









WHO'S  
KEIKO?



SHE'S  
YUSUKE'S  
GIRLFRIEND.



KEIKO'S  
A FRIEND,  
PERIOD. DON'T  
PUMP IT UP!

OW...  
THAT HURT!  
WHAT'S  
WITH YOU?



SURE.  
HOW 'BOUT IT,  
YUSUKE?

I WANNA  
SEE HER.

KNOCK  
YOURSELVES  
OUT. BYE.

HMM.



THAT'S  
RIGHT!!

YOU'RE NOT  
COMING?!



HEY, YUSUKE.  
BET YOU'RE  
WONDERING  
HOW KEIKO'S  
DOING.

!

AM  
NOT.



CONDITIONS  
ARE VERY  
DRY THIS  
SEASON.

PLEASE  
BE SURE TO  
PROPERLY  
EXTINGUISH  
ALL FIRES...

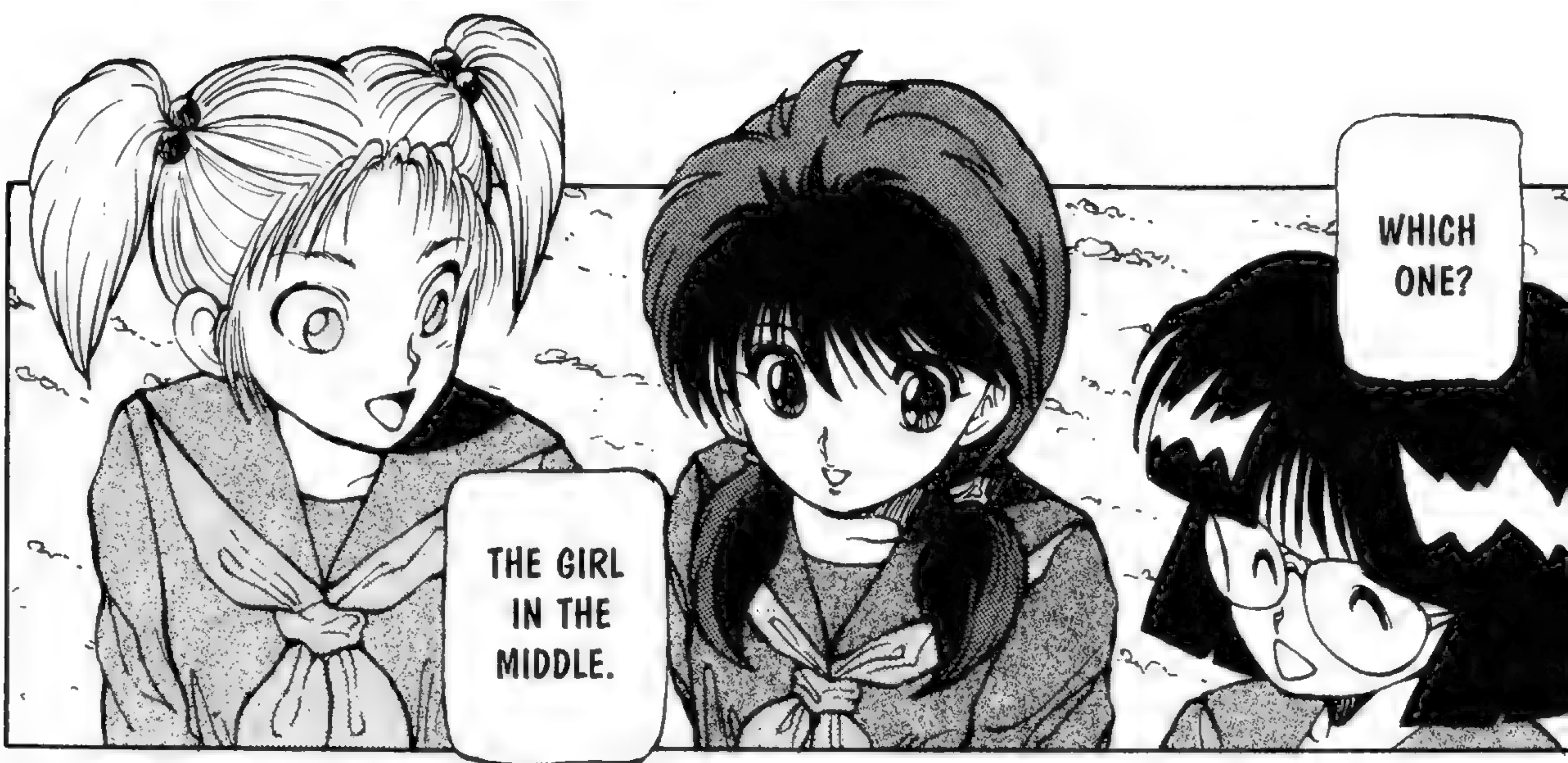
## CHAPTER 13: QUALIFICATIONS FOR A GIRLFRIEND!



# **CHAPTER 13: QUALIFICATIONS FOR A GIRLFRIEND!**

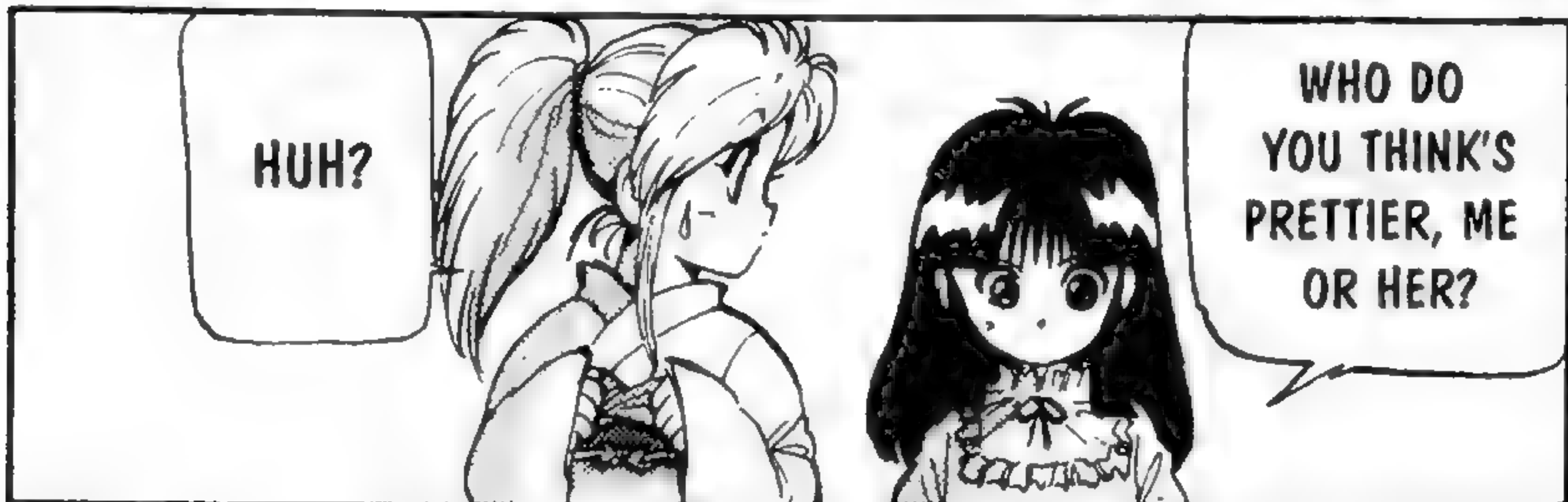






THE GIRL  
IN THE  
MIDDLE.

WHICH  
ONE?



HUH?

WHO DO  
YOU THINK'S  
PRETTIER, ME  
OR HER?



AS A SPIRIT GUIDE  
I REALLY DON'T  
HAVE A PERSPECTIVE  
ON SUCH SUBJECTIVE  
LIVING WORLD  
MATTERS...

WHO'S...?  
WELL...

WHO'S  
PRETTIER?



CAME  
ANYWAY.

HMM...



IRRESPONSIBLE  
IDIOT  
↓

WHY, NO  
CONTEST.  
YOU ARE.



WHO DO YOU  
THINK IS  
PRETTIER,  
YUSUKE?

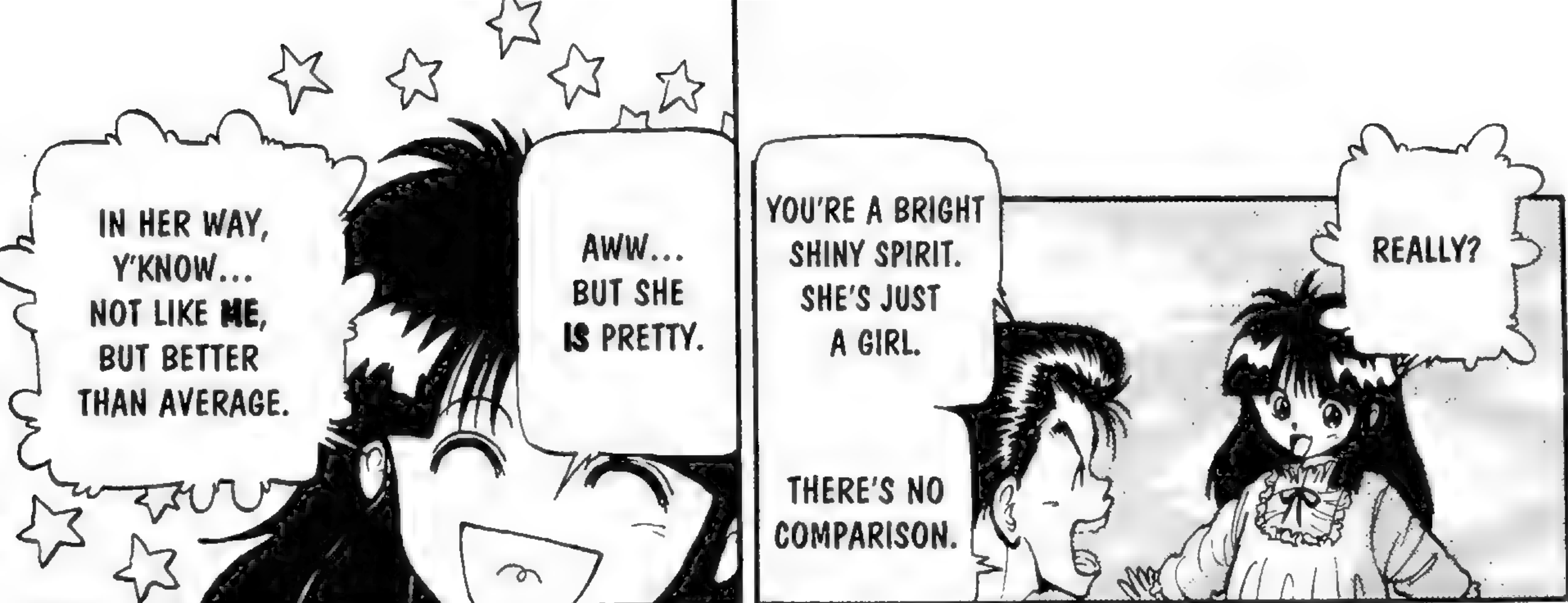
HUH?



OH BOY,  
TROUBLE.  
SAYAKA'S  
DEVELOPING  
A CRUSH ON  
YUSUKE.  
GLANCE







IN HER WAY,  
Y'KNOW...  
NOT LIKE ME,  
BUT BETTER  
THAN AVERAGE.

AWW...  
BUT SHE  
IS PRETTY.

YOU'RE A BRIGHT  
SHINY SPIRIT.  
SHE'S JUST  
A GIRL.

THERE'S NO  
COMPARISON.

REALLY?



HEY YUSUKE!!  
DON'T DIG  
YOURSELF IN  
TOO DEEP!!

"HEY YUSUKE!  
GET YOUR BUTT  
TO SCHOOL!!"

SQUISH

ARE YOU KIDDING?  
THIS IS HER  
LECTURE FACE,  
WHICH IS THE ONLY  
ONE I EVER SAW.



YOU SAYING  
I'M **WRONG**?!  
HUH?!

WILL YOU  
**SHUT** YER  
YAP?!

HE  
ACTUALLY  
LIKES KEIKO  
A LOT.

HE'S A BOY,  
SAYAKA.  
MUSHY STUFF  
EMBARRASSES  
HIM.

AWW.



IF SHE'S GOING  
TO BE YOUR  
GIRLFRIEND,

WHAT?

SHE'D BETTER  
BE SOMEONE  
I CAN RESPECT!

I'LL PUT HER  
TO THE TEST  
AND SEE...

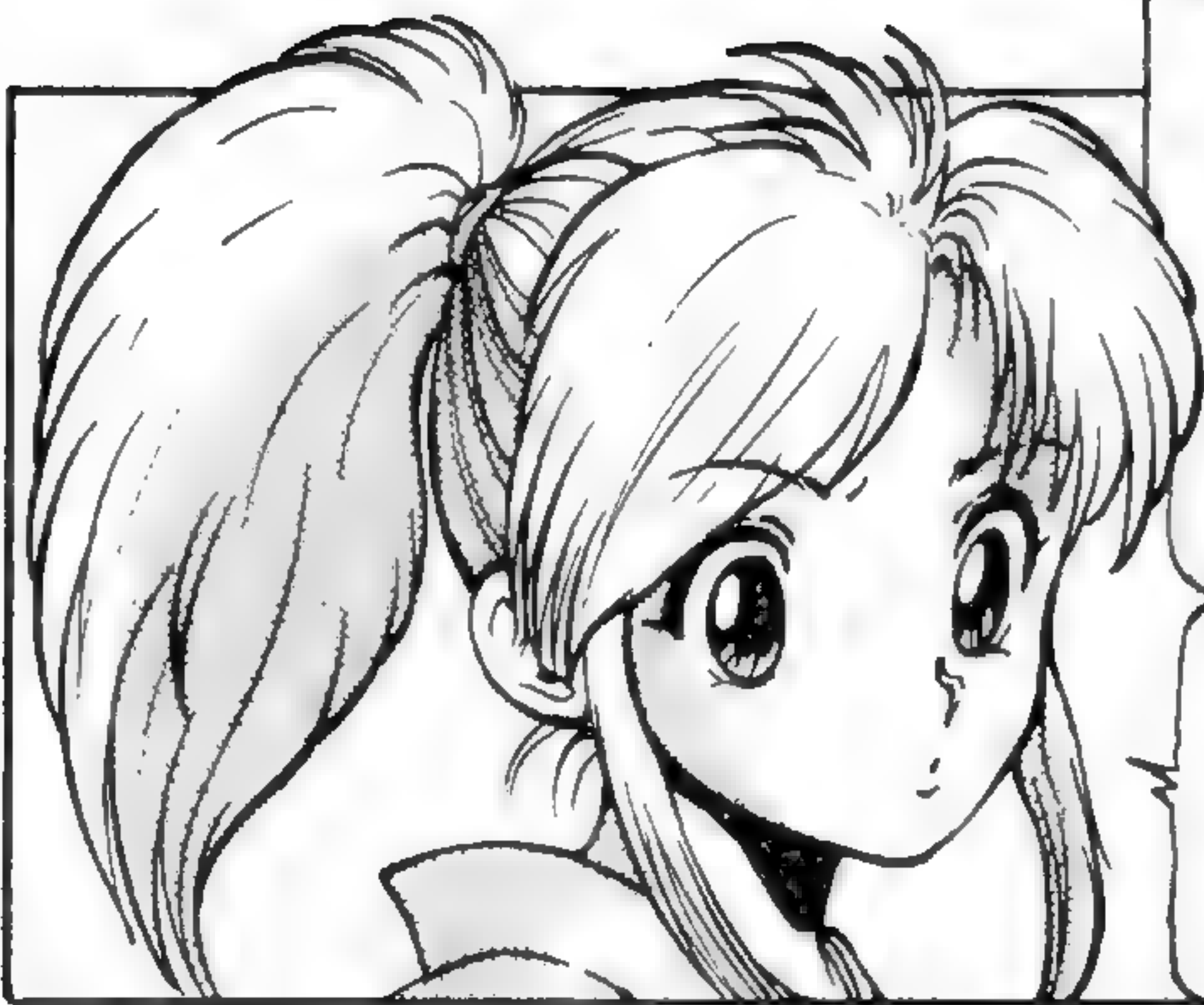
...IF SHE'S  
WORTHY OF  
YUSUKE!



LOOKS LIKE  
I WON'T GET  
A STRAIGHT  
ANSWER.

FINE!  
I'LL SETTLE  
THIS!





SAYAKA'S JUST FOUND  
A BIG BROTHER  
— THAT'S YOU —  
AND SUDDENLY  
HE'S ABOUT TO  
BE TAKEN BY  
A STRANGE GIRL.

NATURALLY  
SHE WANTS  
A SAY IN THAT.

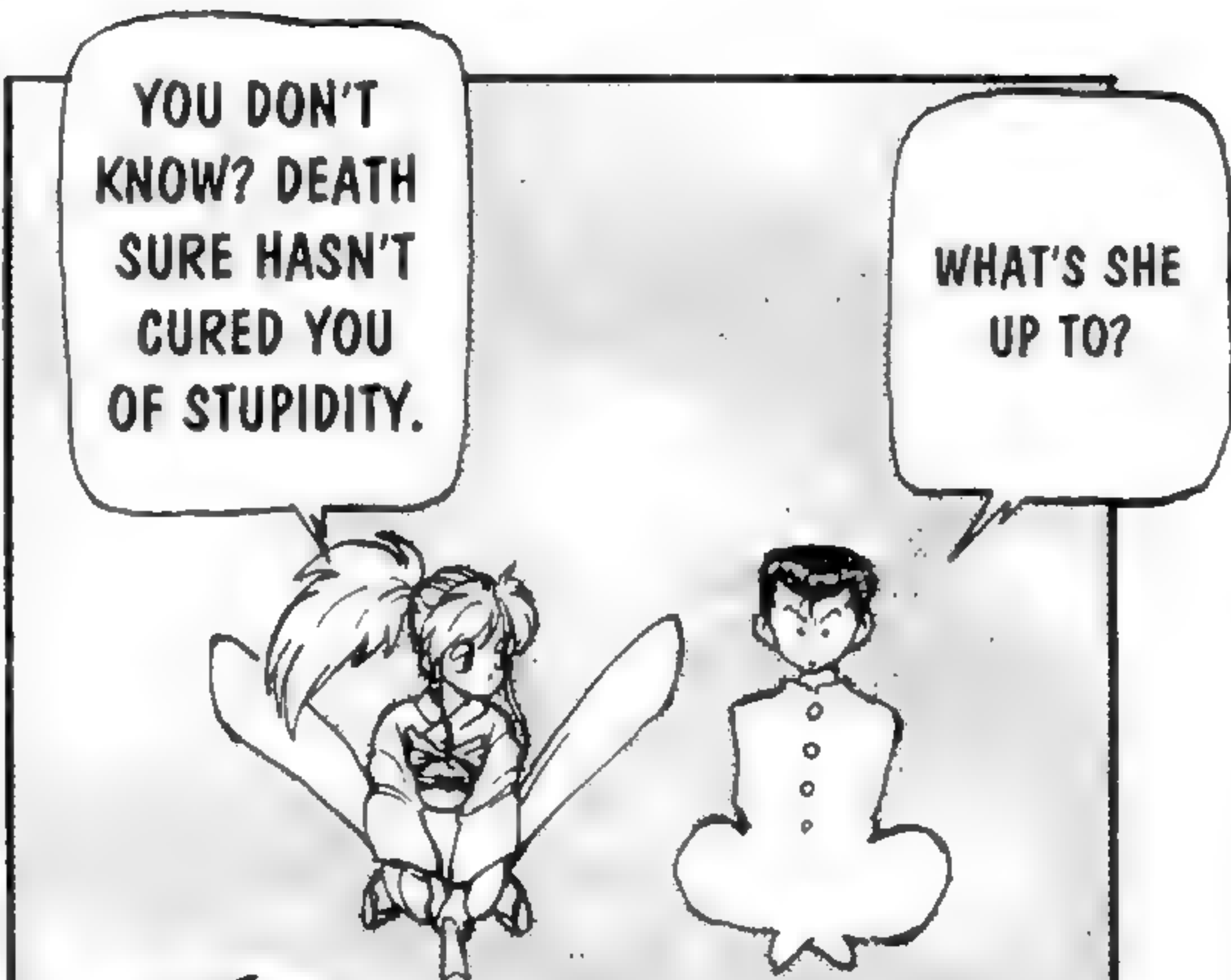
SAYAKA  
DOESN'T KNOW  
HOW LONG YOU  
AND KEIKO HAVE  
BEEN FRIENDS.

"SUDDENLY"  
...?

I CAN'T SAY  
THAT TO A KID!  
NOT SOBER,  
ANYWAY!

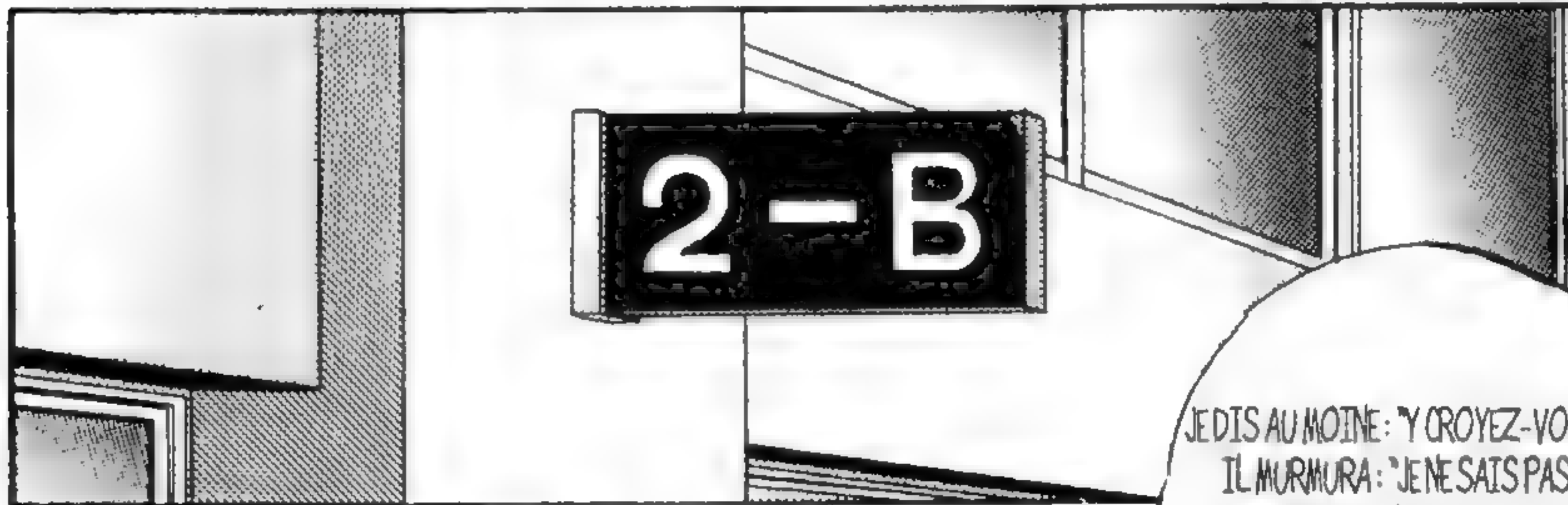


IF YOU HAD JUST  
TOLD HER "I'M IN LOVE  
WITH KEIKO"...  
BUT NO, YOU HAD  
TO ACT ALL GOOFY  
AND MACHO.



YOU DON'T  
KNOW? DEATH  
SURE HASN'T  
CURED YOU  
OF STUPIDITY.

WHAT'S SHE  
UP TO?



TRÈS BON!  
MAGNIFIQUE,  
MADEMOISELLE  
YUKIMURA!

J'EDIS AU MOINE: "Y CROYEZ-VOUS?"  
IL MURMURA: "JE NE SAIS PAS."  
JEREPRIS: "S'IL EXISTAIT SUR  
LA TERRE D'AUTRES  
ÊTRES QUE NOUS, COMMENT NE L  
ES CONNAÎTRIONS-NOUS POINT  
DEPUIS LONGTEMPS; COMMENT NE LES  
AURIEZ-VOUS PAS VUS, VOUS?  
COMMENT NE LES AURAIS-  
JE PAS VUS, MOT?"



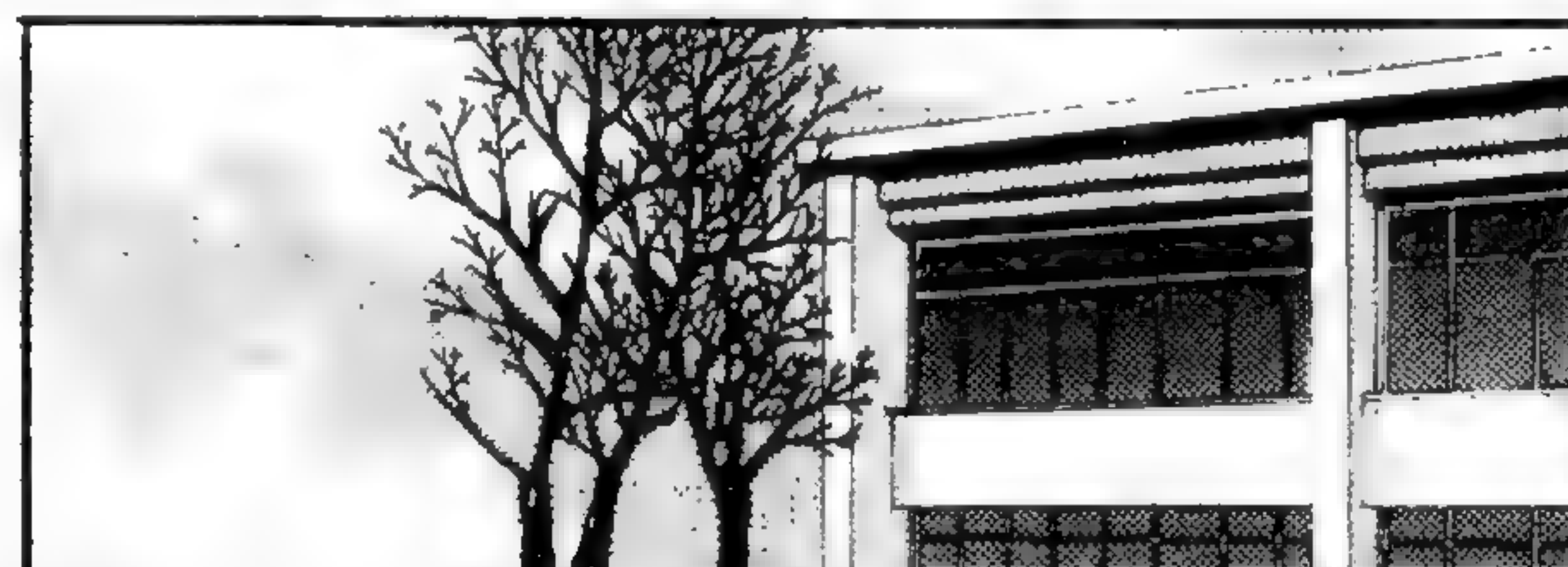
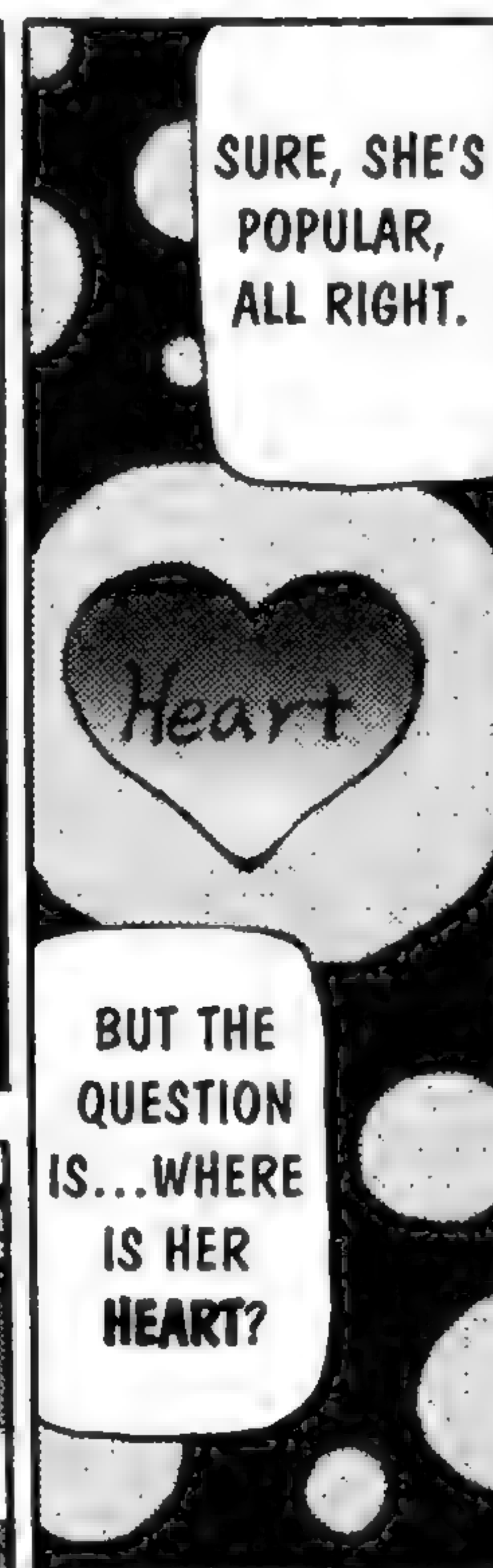
NO WAY.  
NO CHEATING.

KEIKO, COULD  
YOU SHOW ME  
HOW TO SOLVE  
THIS?

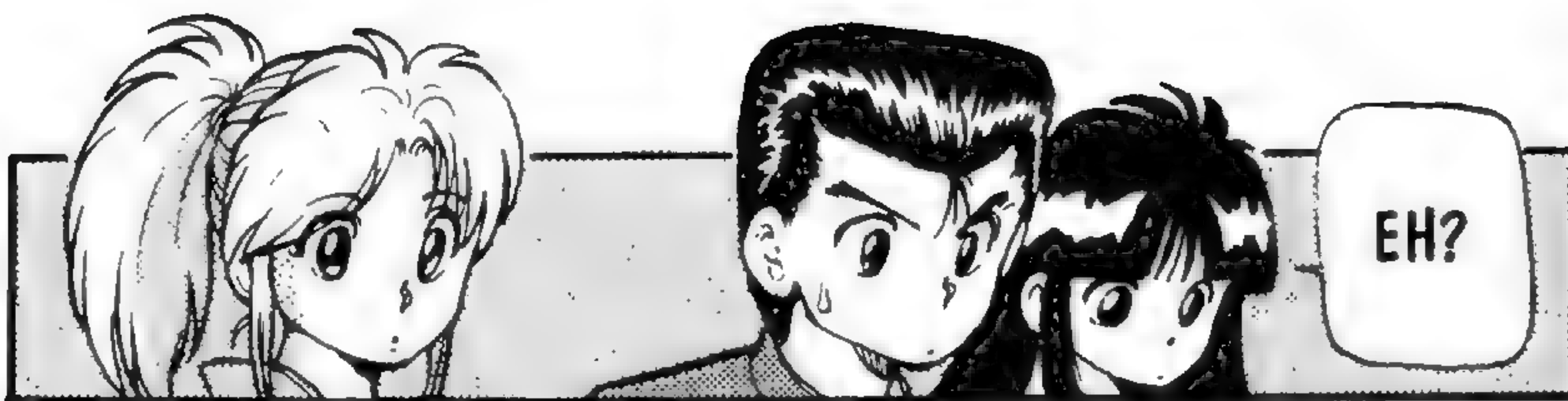
KEIKO,  
CAN I SEE  
YOUR MATH  
HOMEWORK?



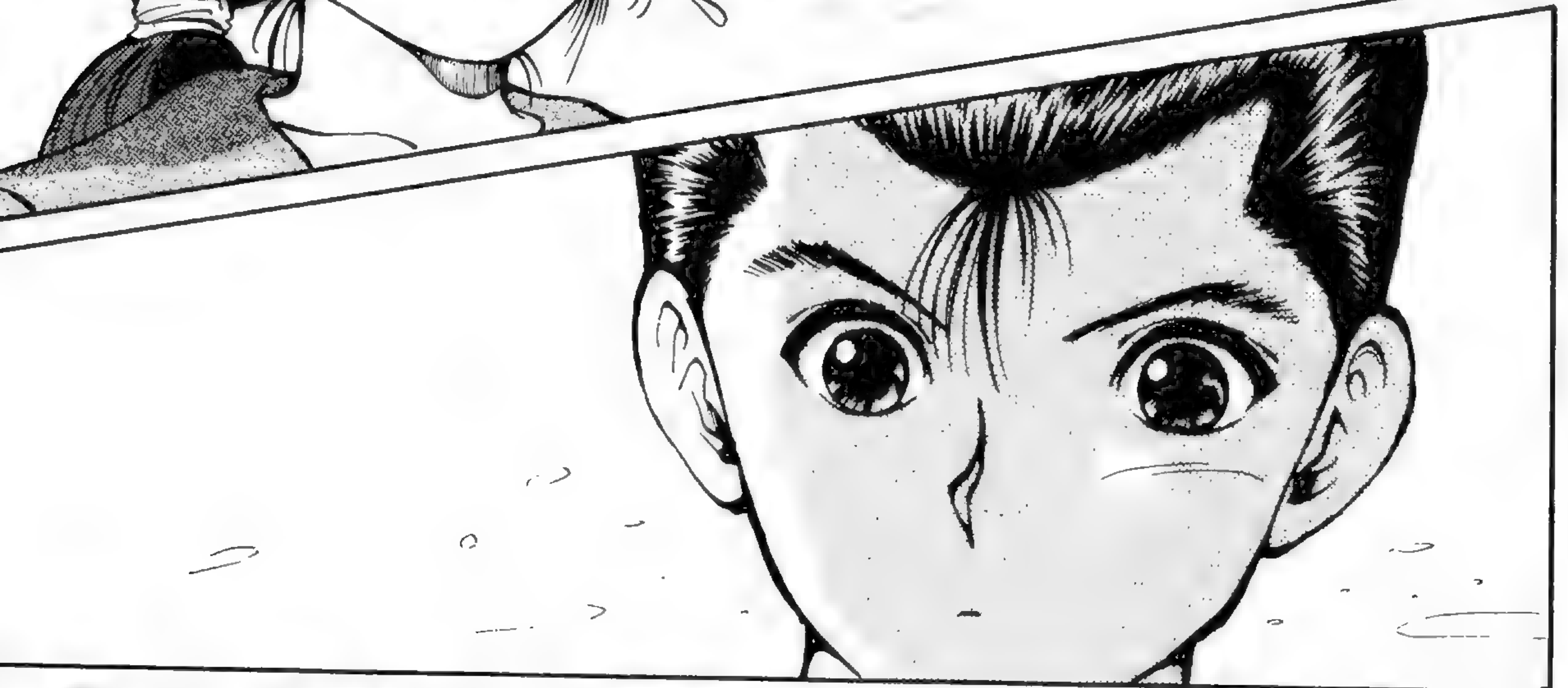




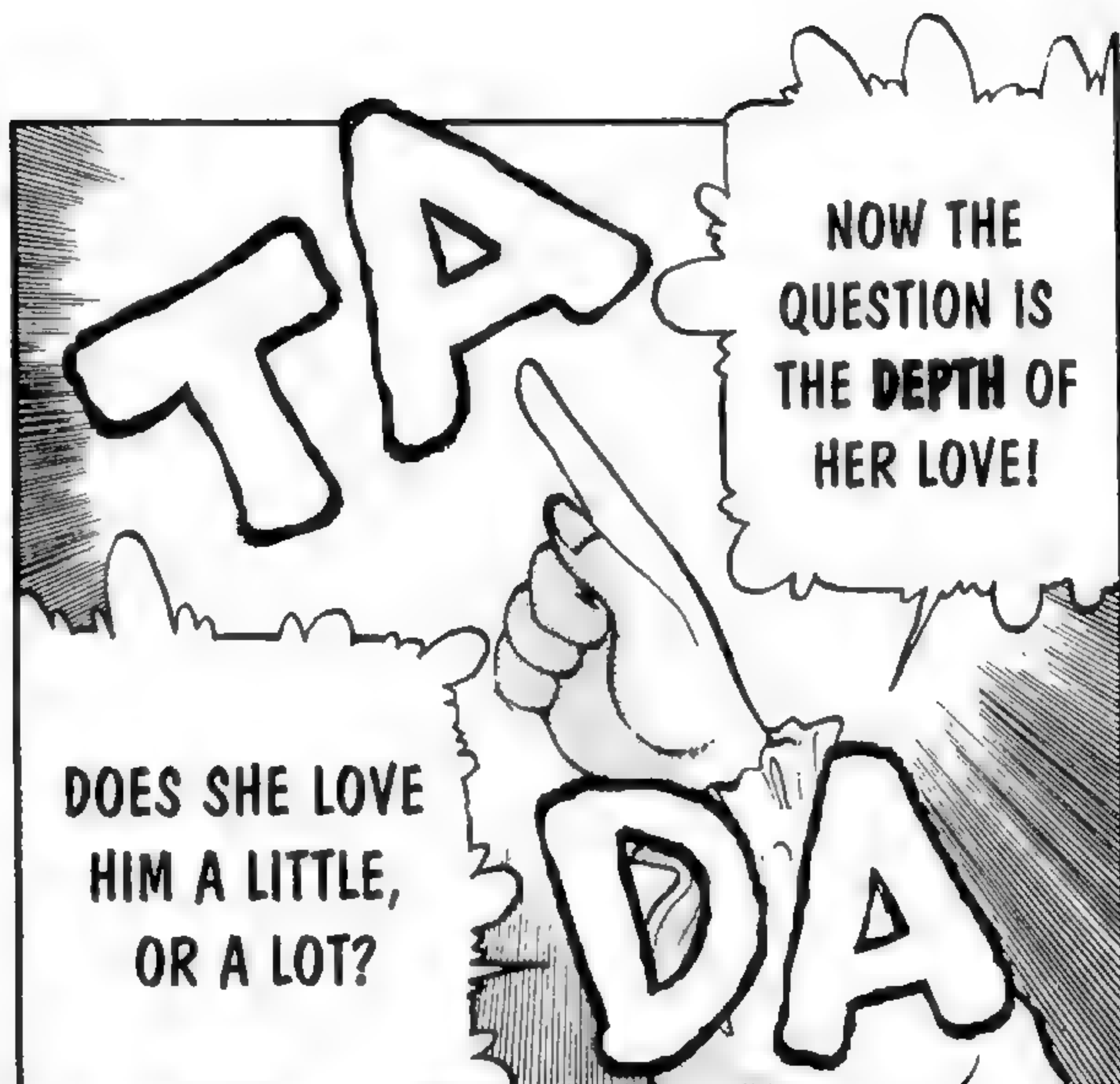












DOES SHE LOVE HIM A LITTLE, OR A LOT?

NOW THE QUESTION IS THE DEPTH OF HER LOVE!



HEY! WHO MADE YOU REFEREE?!

OKAY, LET'S IMAGINE FOR A MOMENT THAT THEY DO LOVE EACH OTHER.



HUH?!



HOW CAN SHE MAKE THIS MUCH OF A MESS IN JUST A FEW DAYS?

THIS PLACE IS A PIGSTY!

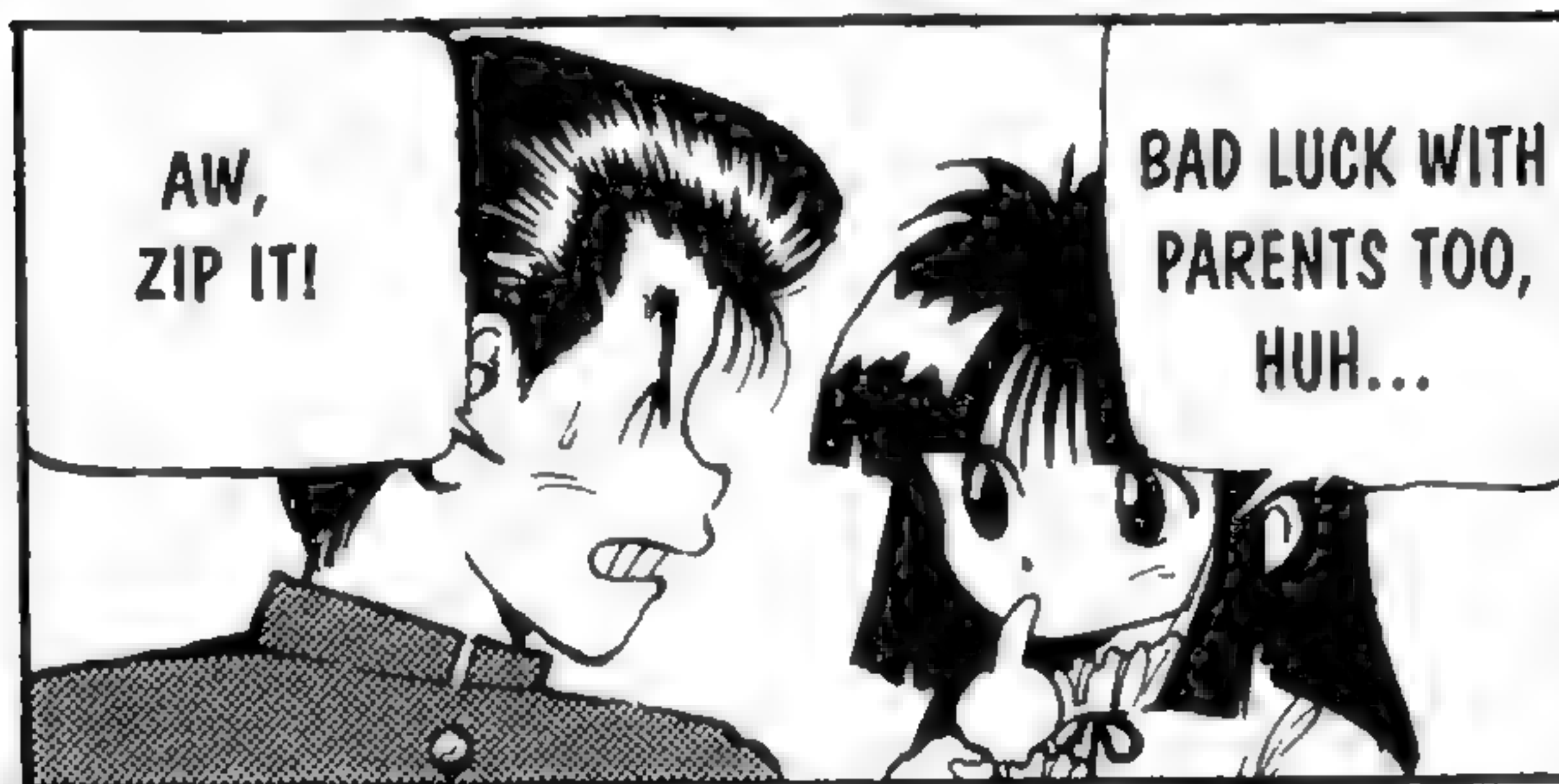
THERE'S NOT EVEN ROOM TO WALK!



GRRRR!  
ATSUKO!  
HONESTLY!!



TREMBLE  
YOO HOO KEIKO, I'M GOING AWAY FOR A WHILE, HA HA. TAKE CARE OF YUSUKE



AW, ZIP IT!

BAD LUCK WITH PARENTS TOO, HUH...



ATSUKO  
SHOULD BE  
ARRESTED FOR  
FELONY  
SLOPPINESS!

GOOD GOSH!!  
YUSUKE'S  
PRACTICALLY  
BURIED!!



IF I DIDN'T KEEP  
COMING BY, YOUR  
BODY WOULD BECOME  
JUST ANOTHER PIECE OF  
TRASH IN THIS DUMP!

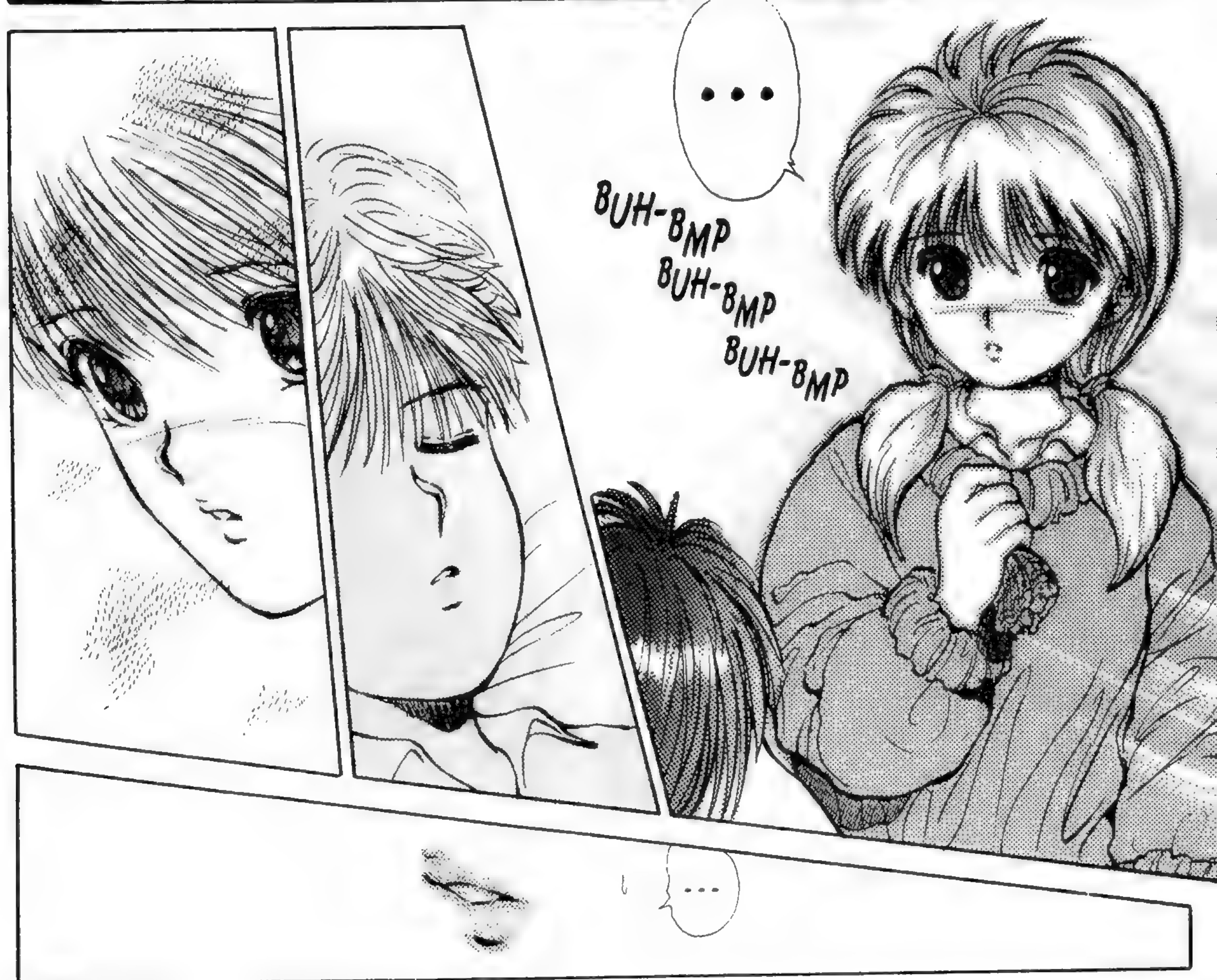
OMIGOD,  
YUSUKE!

SHE'S NEVER  
SHIED FROM  
THIS BURDEN,  
SAYAKA.

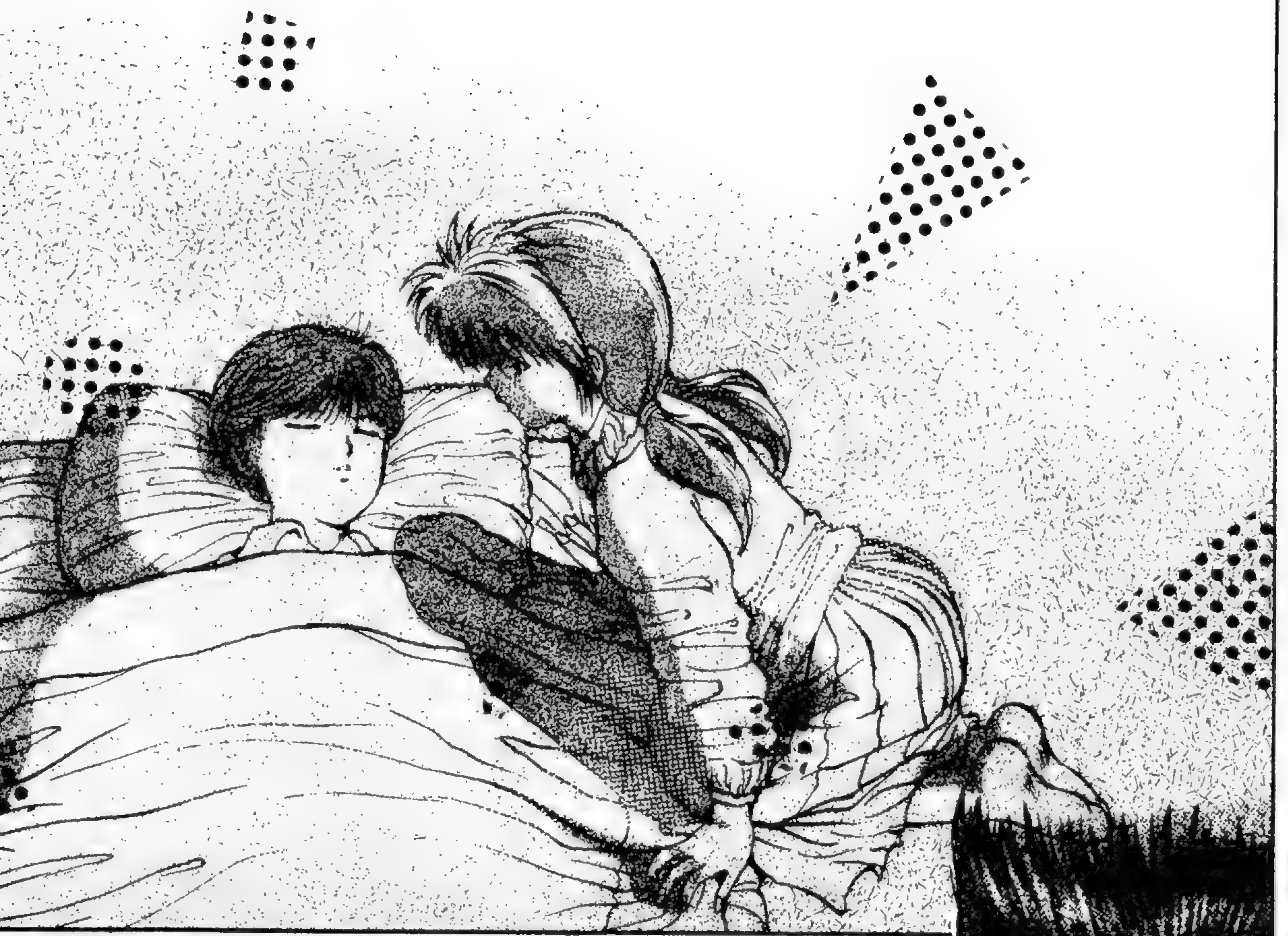
WIPE  
WIPE

SIGH, HE'S  
ALL DUSTY  
AND...





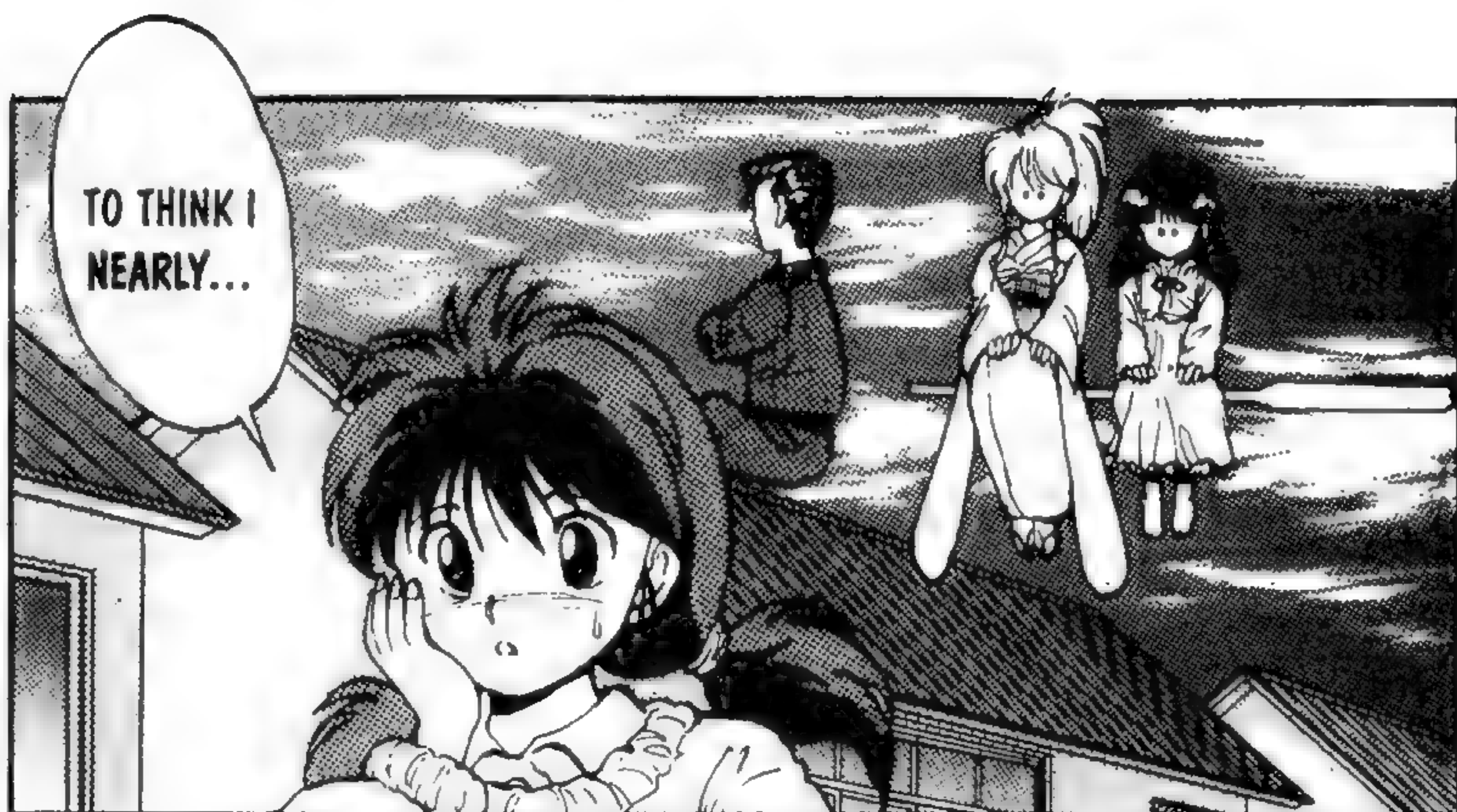
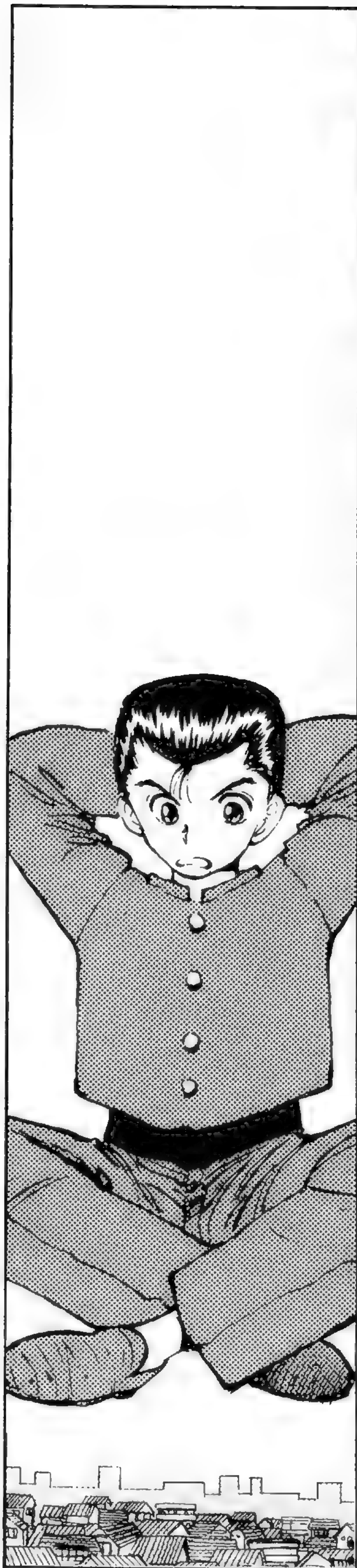














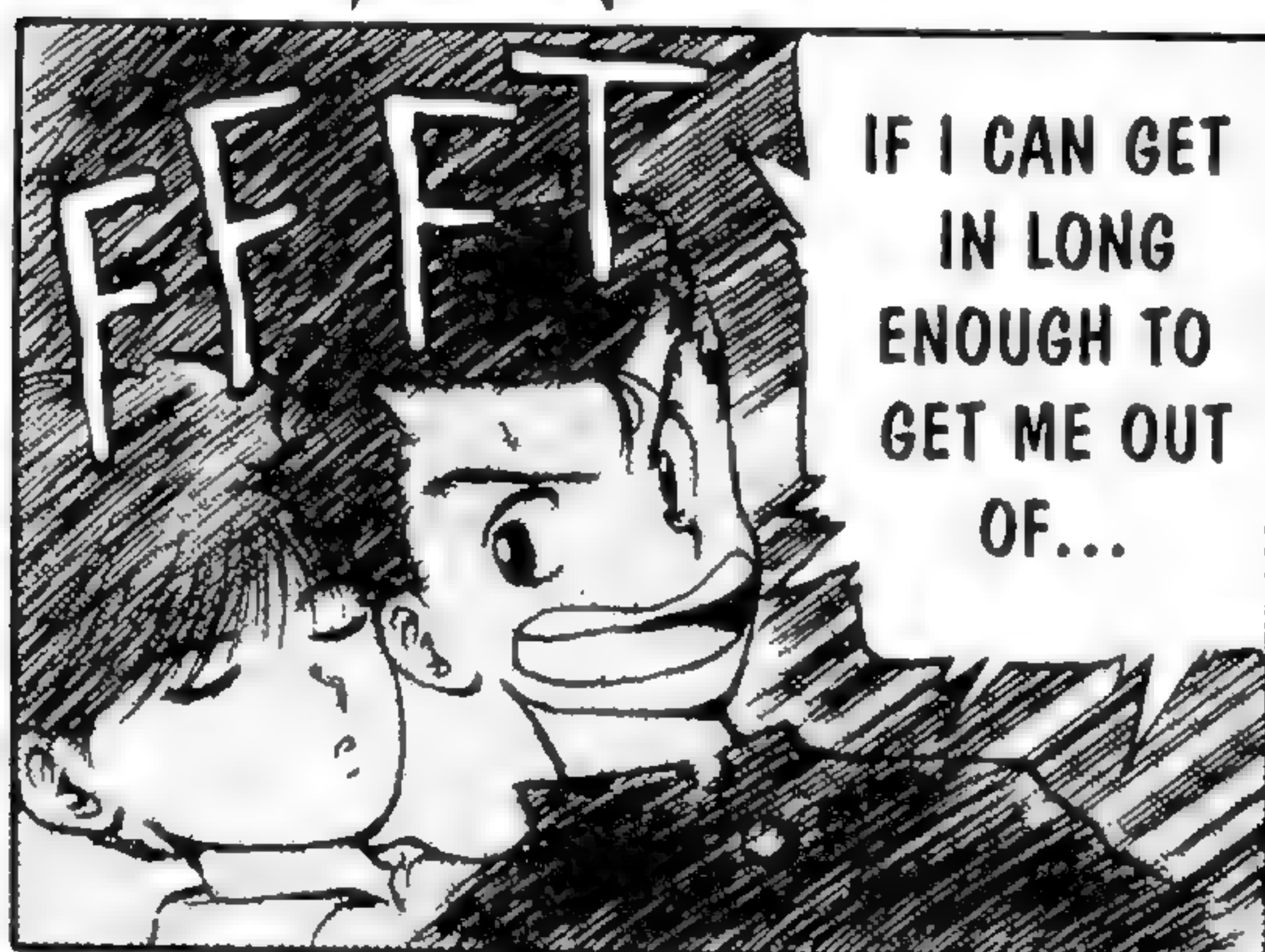






ALL THAT  
TRASH...  
THE PLACE IS  
A TINDERBOX!!

THE FIRE'S  
SPREADING  
LIKE CRAZY!!



IF I CAN GET  
IN LONG  
ENOUGH TO  
GET ME OUT  
OF...



WAKE UP!  
WE'RE ABOUT  
TO DIE!  
AGAIN!!



YOU ACCESSED  
YOUR BODY JUST THE  
OTHER DAY, AND IT'LL  
BE 3 WEEKS  
BEFORE YOU CAN  
DO IT AGAIN!

ARRGH

DAMMIT!  
IT'S NO  
GOOD!!



I KNOW!  
WE HAVE TO  
GET HELP!!

IN 3 MINUTES  
ALL I'LL HAVE  
LEFT TO ACCESS  
IS ASHES!!





I SAID FIRE!  
FIRE!!



HEY,  
NOODLE FACE!  
CHECK IT OUT!  
THE HOUSE  
ACROSS THE  
STREET'S  
ON FIRE!!



THINGS ARE  
NEVER THAT  
CONVENIENT!

AREN'T THERE ANY  
TEMPLE TRAINED  
SIXTH SENSE GUYS  
ANYWHERE IN THIS  
NEIGHBORHOOD?!

THEY CAN'T  
HEAR ME!



FORGET IT! HE COULD  
BE ANYWHERE! EVEN IF  
HE'S HOME, HE COULDN'T  
GET HERE BEFORE IT WAS  
TOO LATE.

FLOOM  
FLOOM

WAIT!  
YOUR FRIEND  
KUWABARA...!



DAMMIT,  
SOMEONE  
NOTICE!!

I'LL LOOK  
FOR HIM  
ANYWAY!!







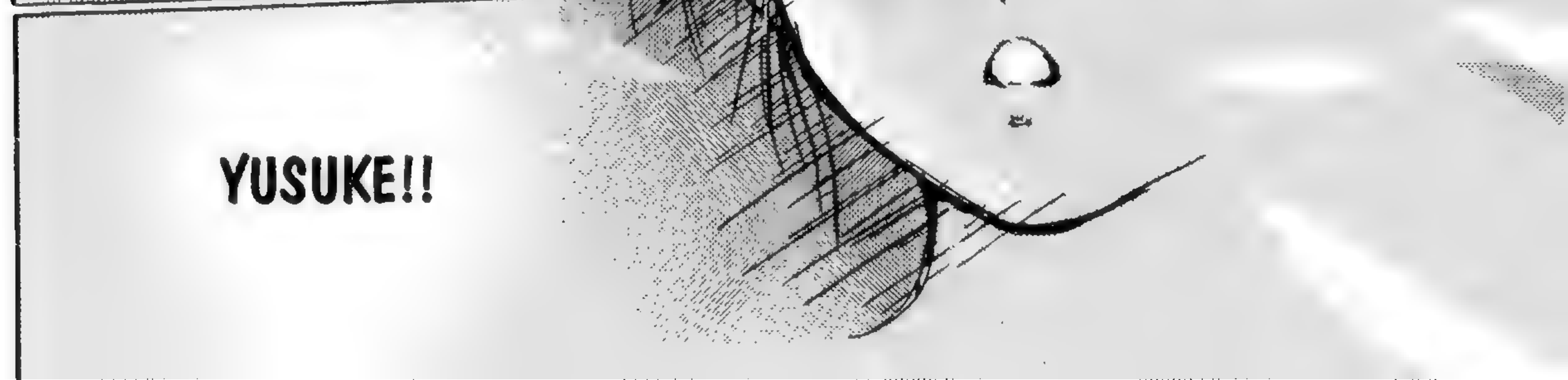


O-OH  
NO.



WAIT FOR  
ME...

I PROMISE  
I'LL BE BACK..



YUSUKE!!









KEIKO!

!!

SLAM

DON'T!!

IT'S  
SUICIDE!

YIPES!!  
SHE'S  
GOING  
IN!

WHOOA!!

FWOOSH



**CHAPTER 14:**  
**INTO THE INFERNO...!!**

**RAOAA**

**AAAH!!**



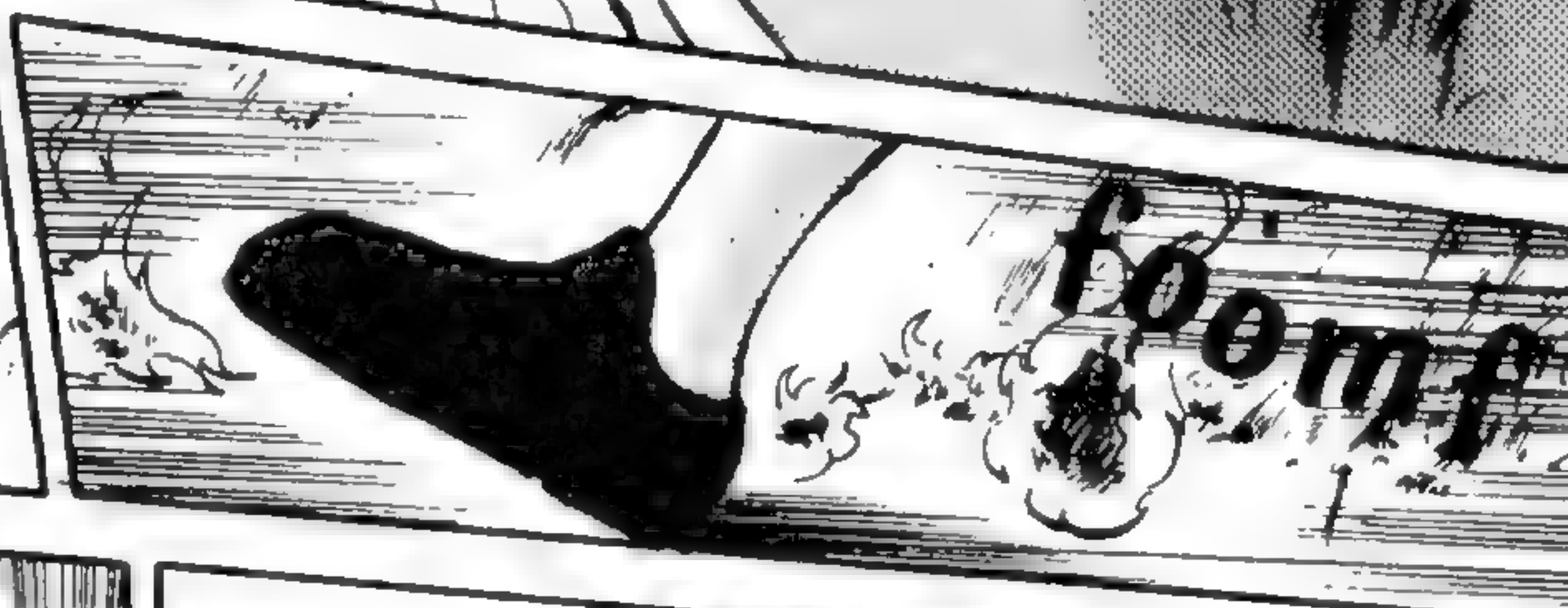




YUSUKE!!



SINGE



foomp



FORGET ABOUT  
MY BODY,  
MORON!  
GET OUT!!



SHE'LL  
SUCGUMB  
TO THE  
SMOKE!

THAT  
IDIOT!



THERE'S NO POINT  
IN COMING BACK  
TO LIFE IF KEIKO'S  
DEAD!

BUT WITHOUT  
YOUR BODY YOU  
CAN'T COME BACK  
TO LIFE!



LISTEN TO ME!  
SCRAM OUTTA  
HERE!!

BLUSH

!





OH GREAT...  
THE FIRE'S  
REACHED  
THE DOOR!

...!!



SHE'S  
DEAD!

THAT'S  
IT!

THAT GIRL  
WON'T BE ABLE  
TO GET OUT!



YEAH...  
TOO LITTLE  
TOO LATE!

I REACHED  
KUWABARA,  
BUT...

THE FIRE'S  
SPREADING  
TOO FAST!!



YUSUKE!!

KOFF

KOFF

RROOAR



OH!!









WE'RE  
TRAPPED!!

THE  
DOOR...

CRACK  
CRACKLE

FLOOM



I...I DON'T  
KNOW...  
I DON'T HAVE  
THE POWER  
TO...

C'MON BOTAN,  
CAN'T WE DO  
SOMETHING?!



?!

NEVER  
FEAR!



RROOAR





KOENMA!!

I KNOW  
A WAY  
TO SAVE  
THEM!

YOUR  
MAJESTY!!

KING ENMA JR.  
(KOENMA)  
JUDGE OF  
THE DEAD

OKAY,  
LEND IT!!  
SAVE HER!

TO LEND  
A HELPING HAND,  
IF YOU'D LIKE...

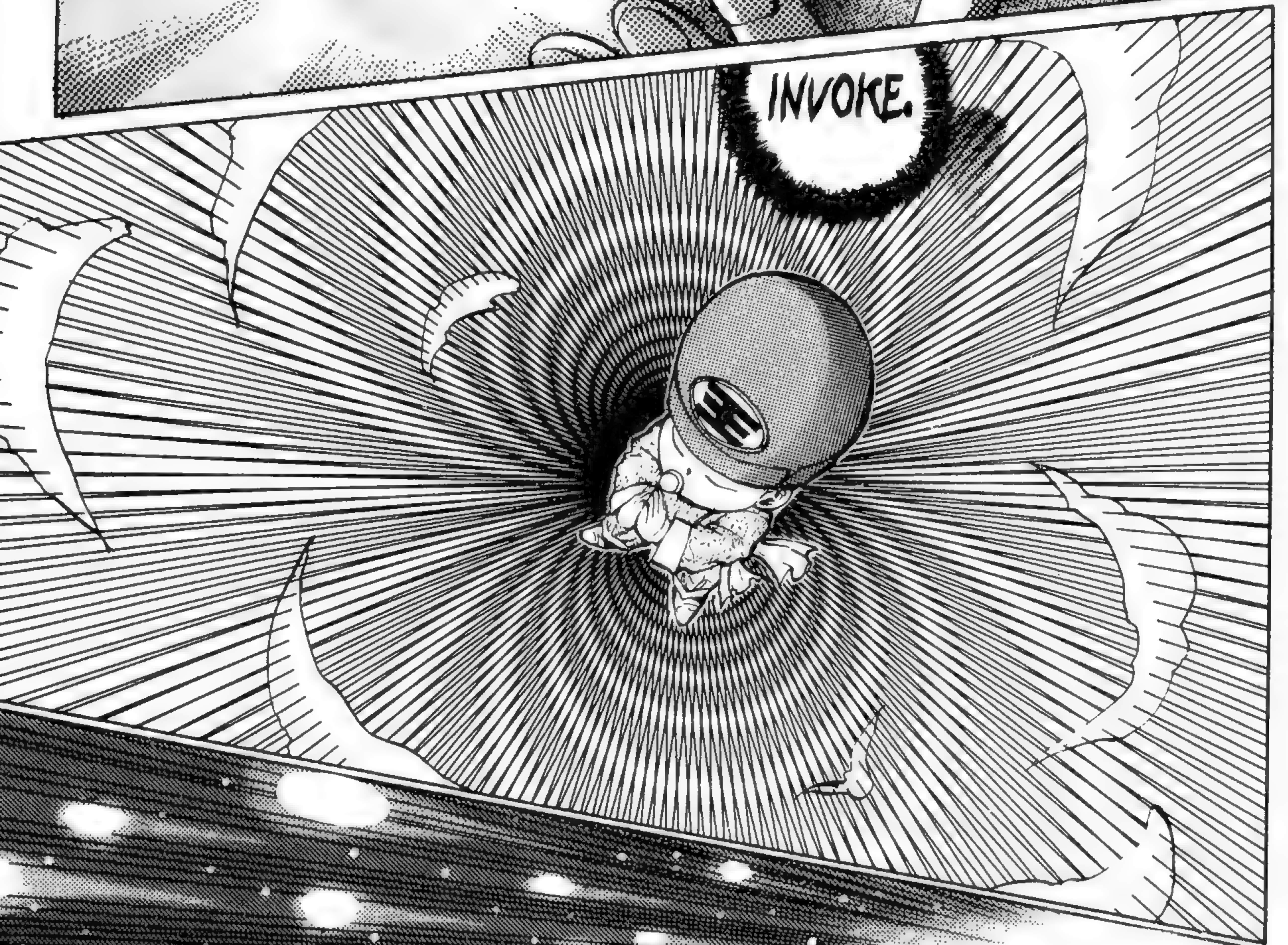
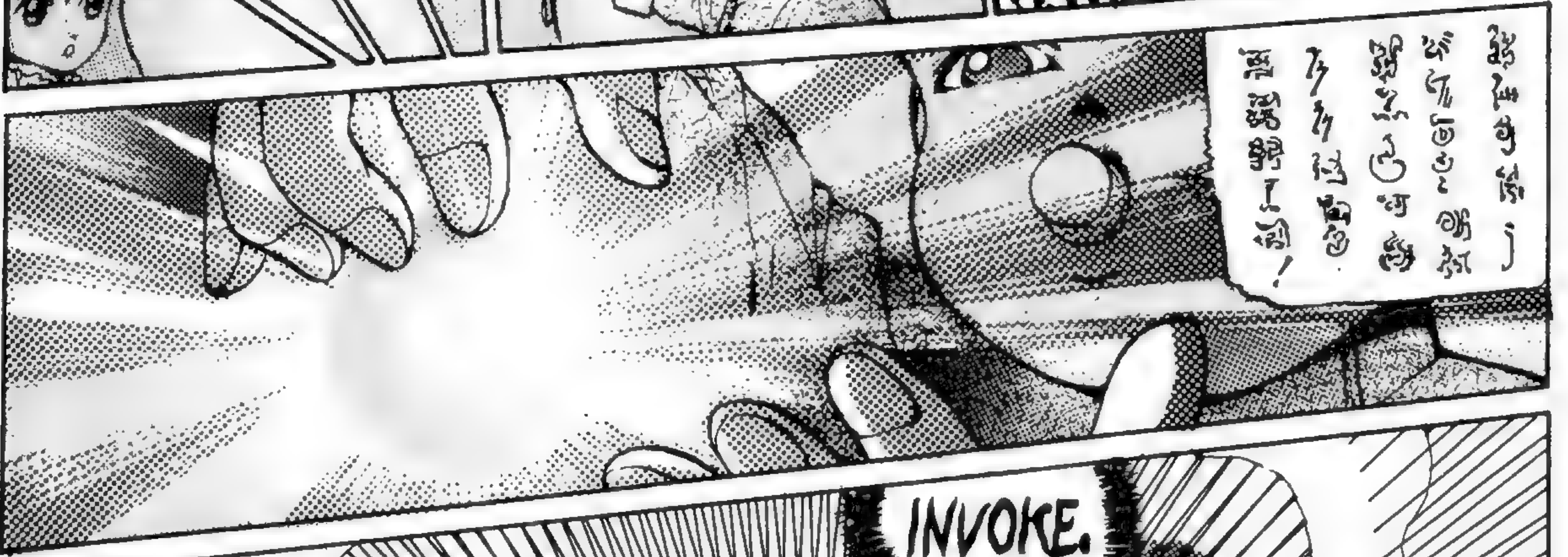
YEAH! THERE'S  
CONDITIONS!  
ALWAYS ARE!

OH, BUT YOU  
SHOULD KNOW  
THAT...

**GET OFF YOUR  
BUTT AND  
SAVE KEIKO,  
DAMMIT!!**

**LEAVE THAT  
CRAP FOR  
LATER!!**







...CLEARING  
A PATH...!!

THE  
FIRE'S...

WHOOOSH

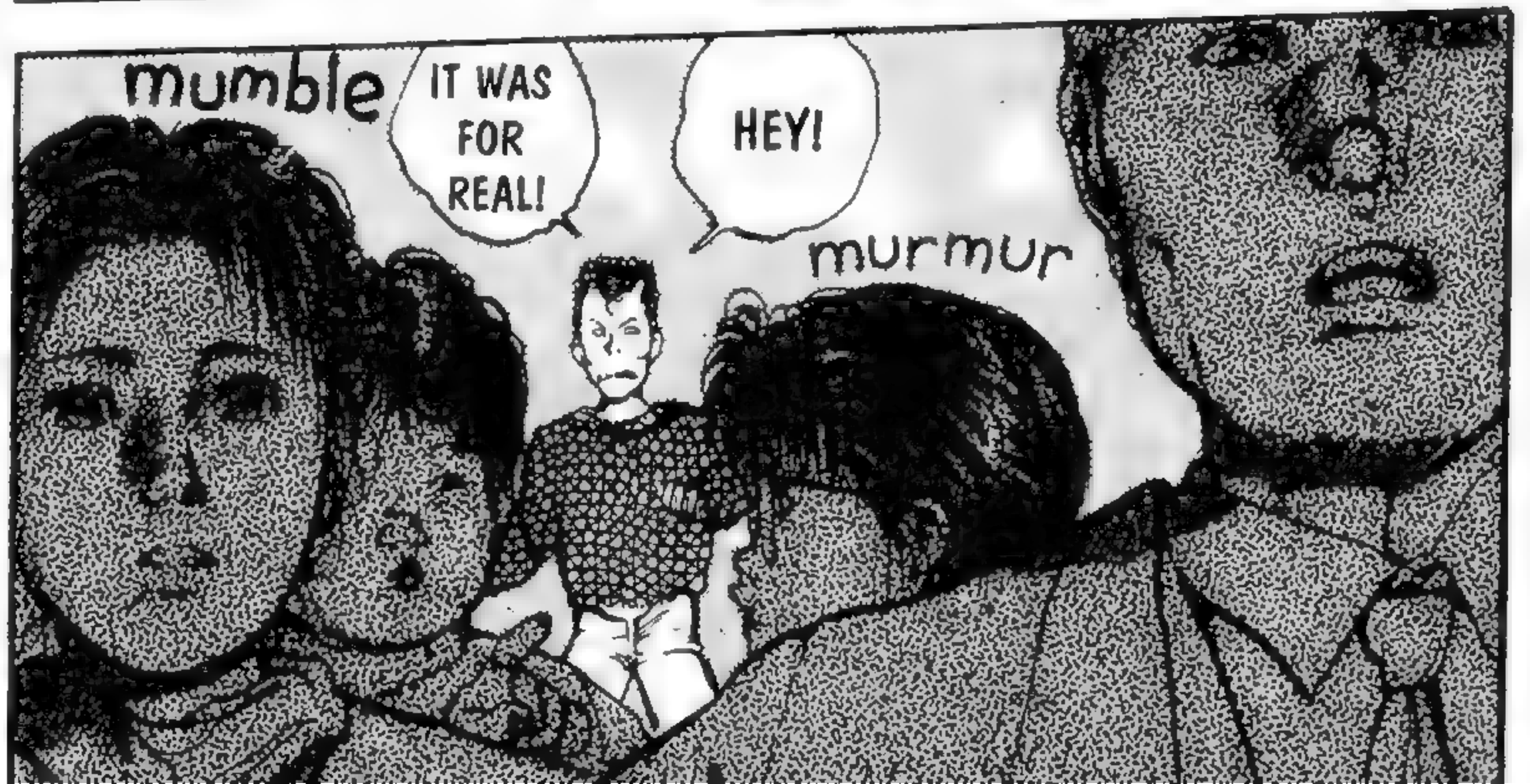
!!

WHOOOSH

WHOOOSH











YOW!!

YUSUKE'S  
IN DANGER!!  
COME QUICK!!



HEY,  
YUKIMURA!!

KUWABARA!

I THOUGHT  
I WAS JUST  
IMAGINING...

THAT WEIRD  
VOICE IN MY  
HEAD...



THERE'S THE  
FIRE TRUCK.  
ABOUT TIME!

YEAH...

AND...  
URAMESHI!!  
DID YOU...?



I KNOW.  
HOW WILL  
I EXPLAIN  
THIS TO MY  
FAMILY?

YOU'RE  
LOOKIN'  
A REAL  
MESS,  
YUKIMURA.



OH...  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT.

LISTEN, WE'D  
BETTER GET YOU  
GUYS OUT OF HERE  
BEFORE FOLKS START  
GETTING CURIOUS.



TH-  
THANKS...

COME TO  
MY HOUSE.  
MY SISTER'S GOT  
CLOTHES YOU CAN  
BORROW.



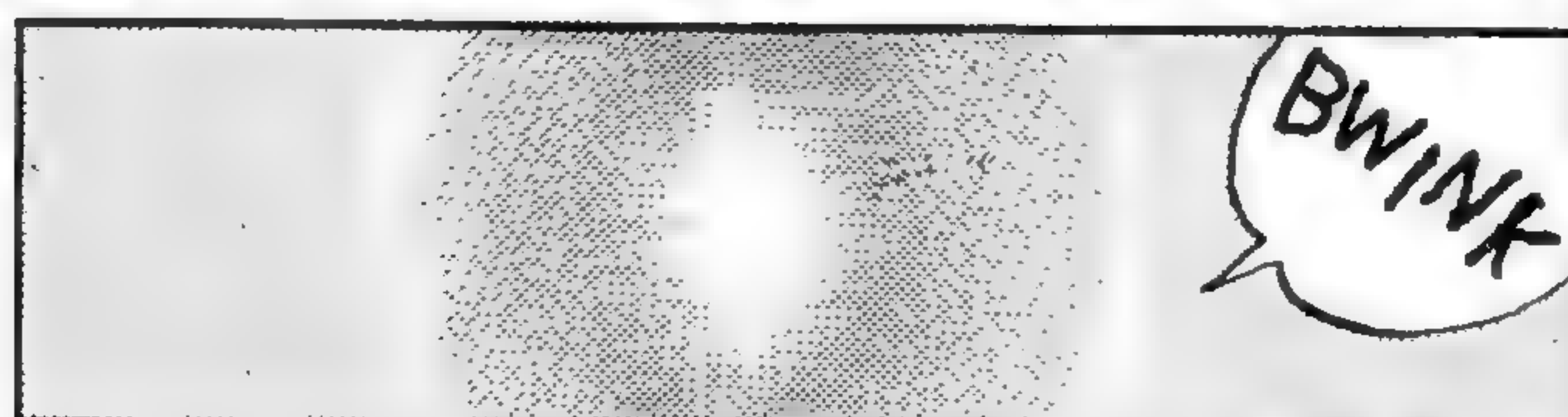


BOTAN, YOU  
FILL HIM IN  
ON THE REST.

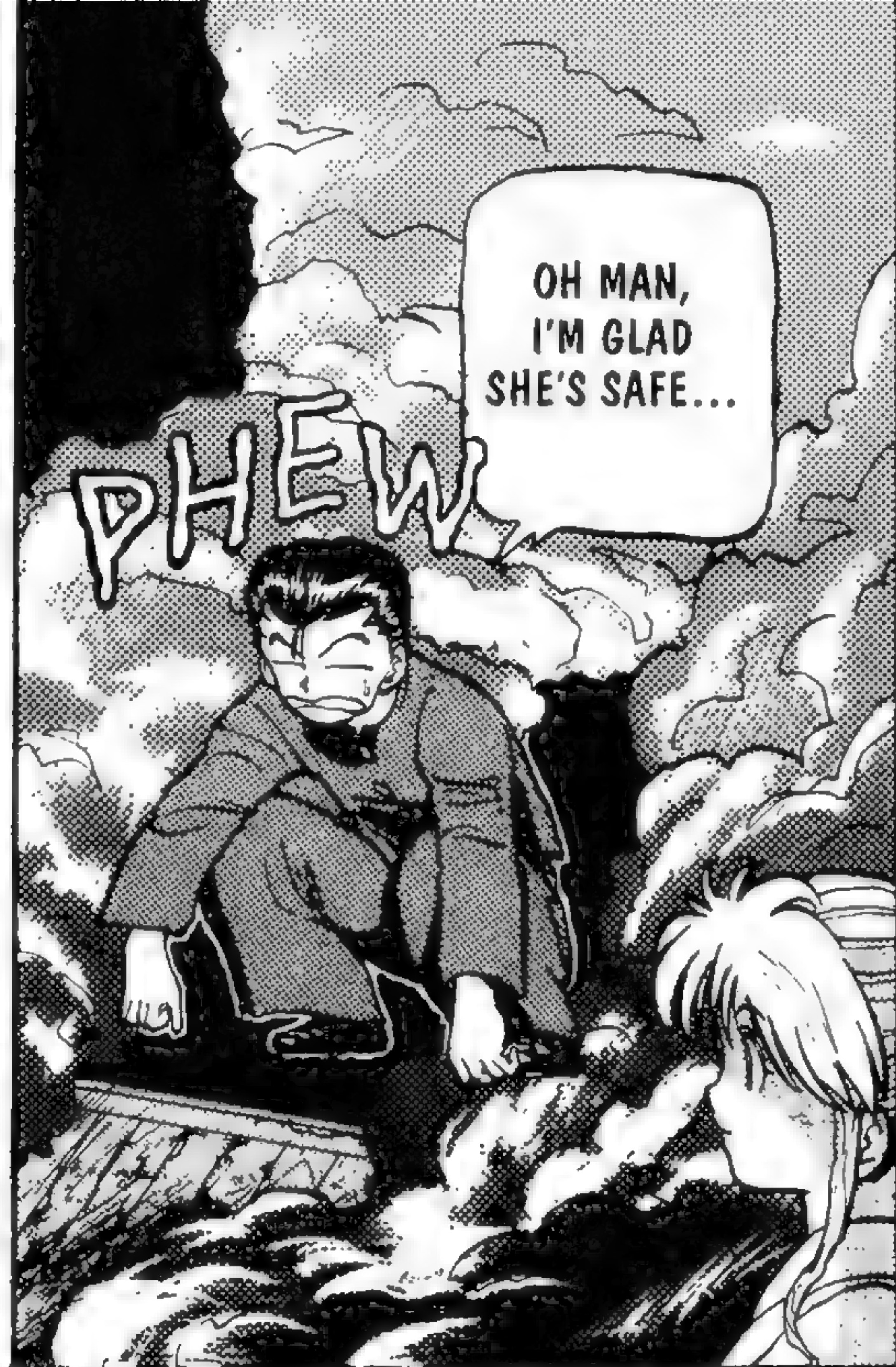
YEP, BUT  
ALL'S WELL,  
RIGHT?

I WILL,  
SIR!

WUMM



BWINK



OH MAN,  
I'M GLAD  
SHE'S SAFE...

PHEW



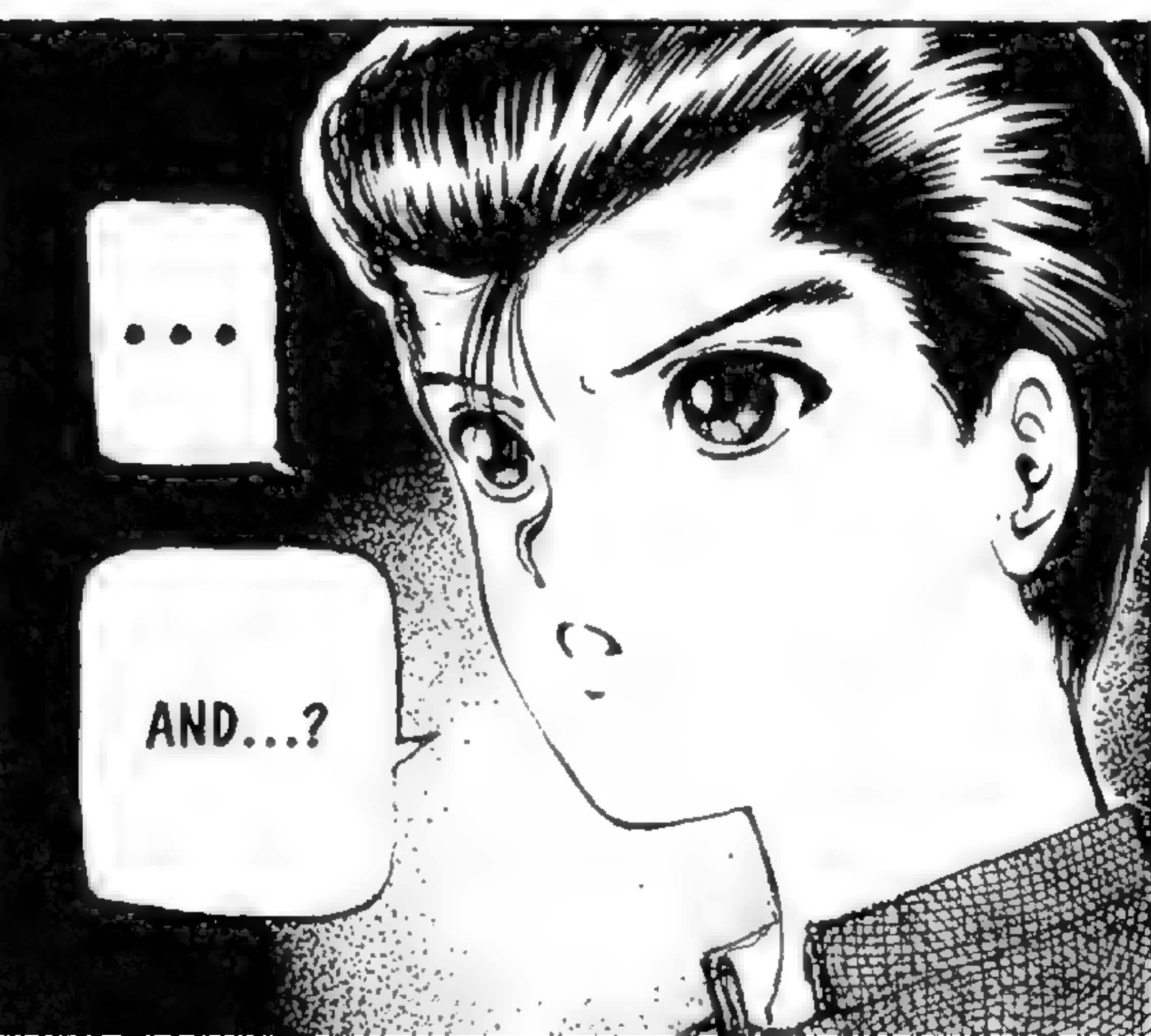
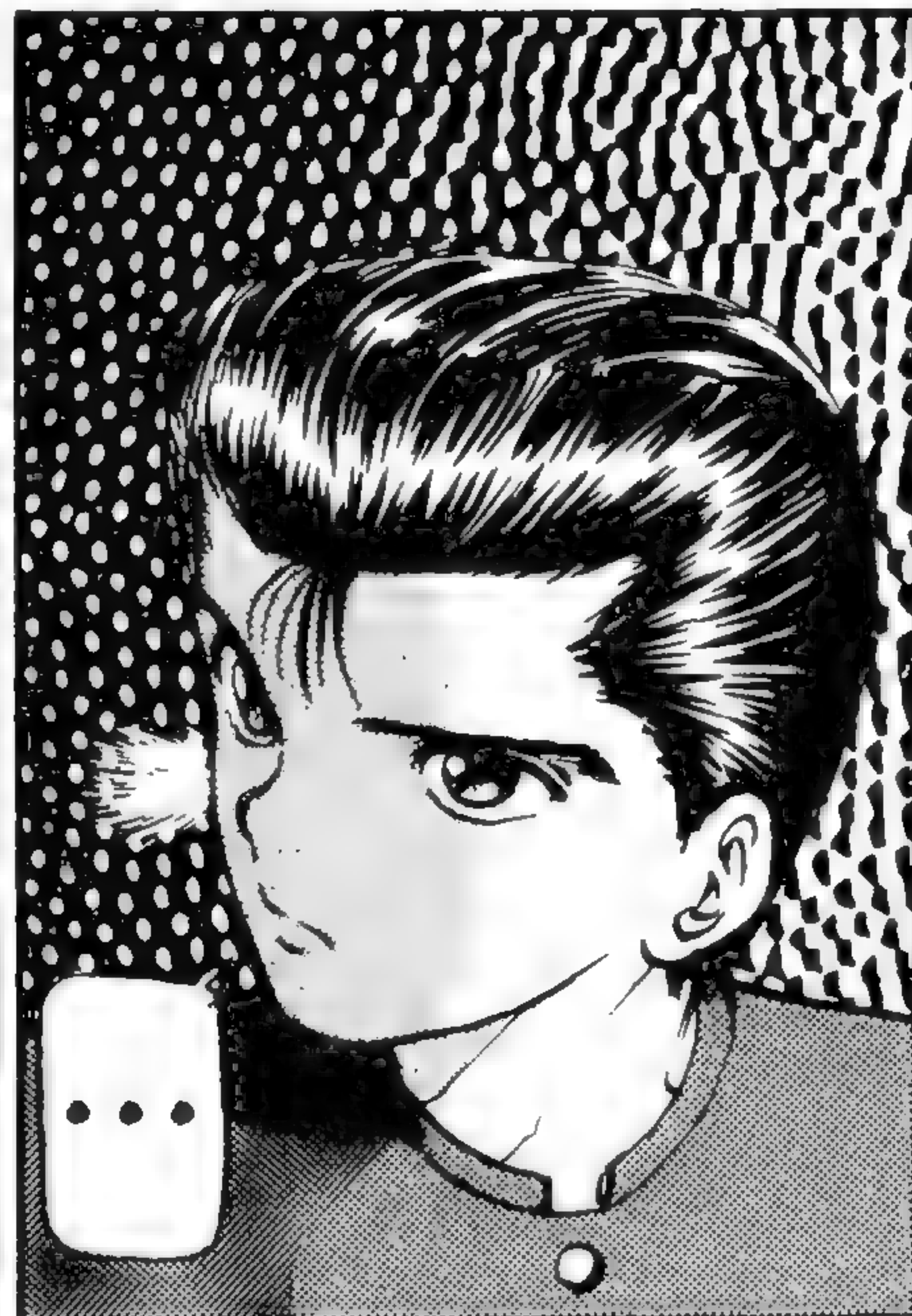
...MASTER  
KOENMA'S  
INTERVENTION  
NEVER COMES  
CHEAP.

IT'S COST  
YOU YOUR  
VIRTUE.

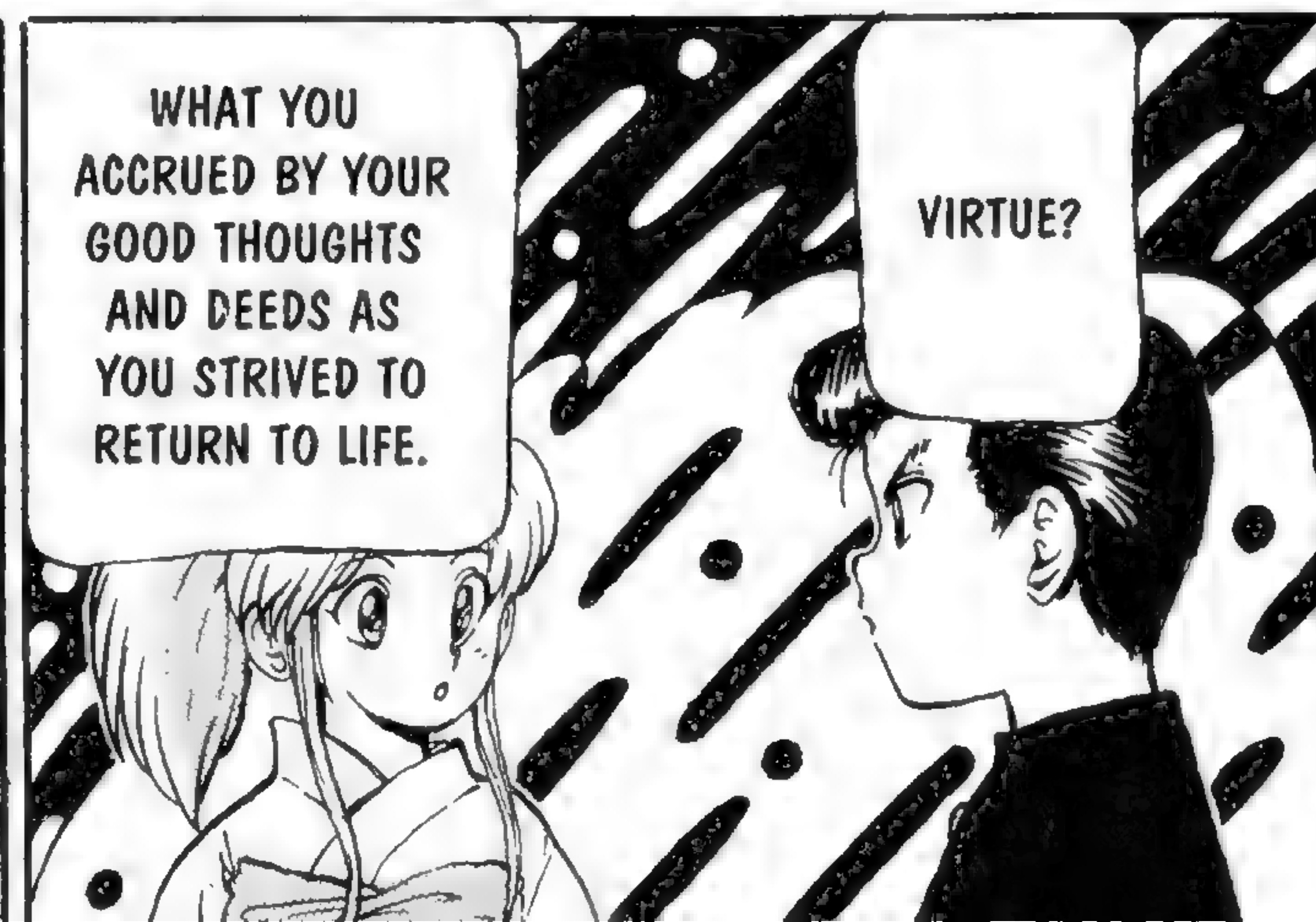


WELL...

OK...  
LAY IT ON ME!  
WHAT'D  
I AGREE TO?



AND...?



WHAT YOU  
ACCRUED BY YOUR  
GOOD THOUGHTS  
AND DEEDS AS  
YOU STRIVED TO  
RETURN TO LIFE.

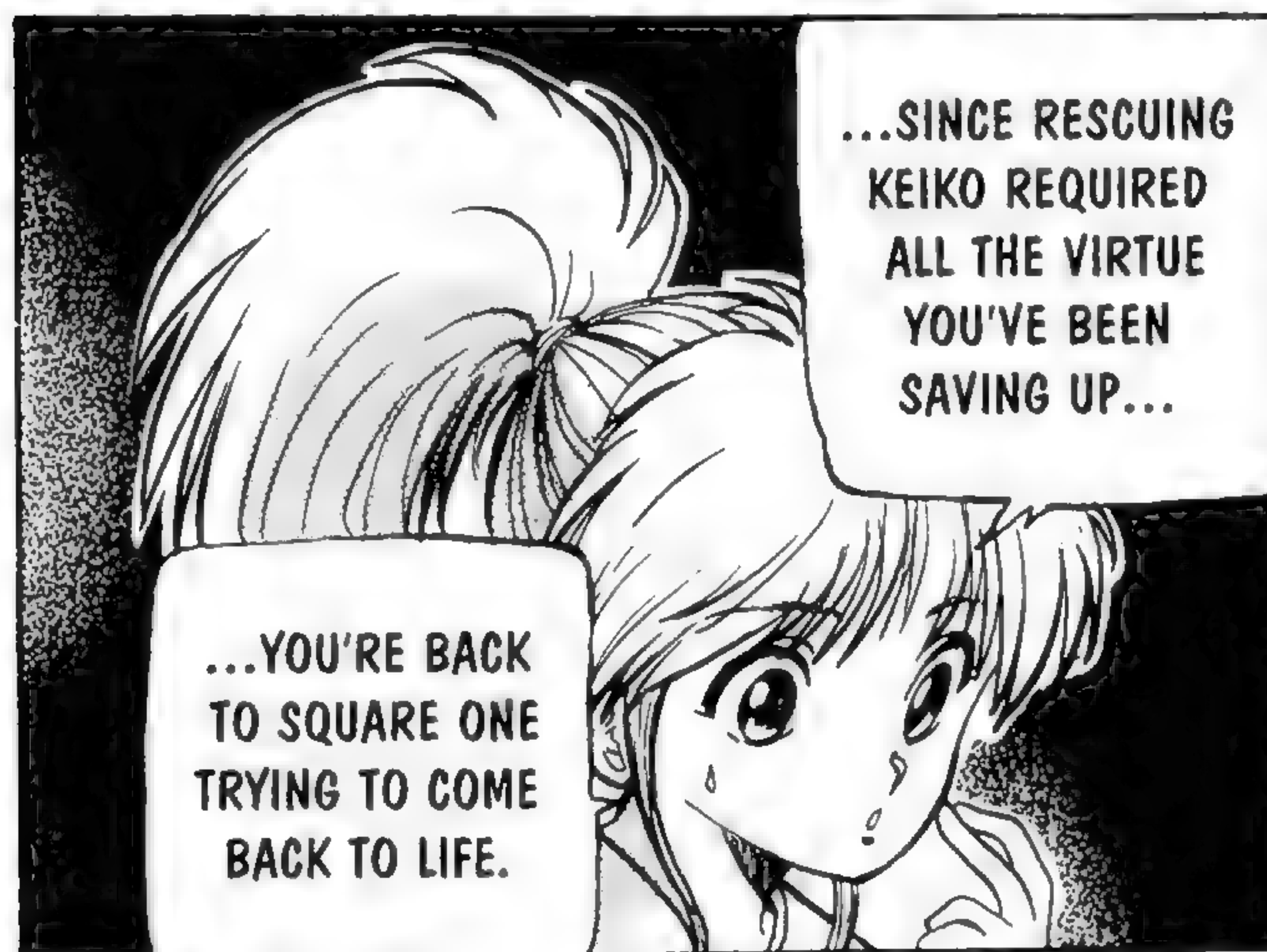
VIRTUE?





WELL, TO SIMPLIFY, WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU IS...

SO YOU'RE SAYING...?



...YOU'RE BACK TO SQUARE ONE TRYING TO COME BACK TO LIFE.

...SINCE RESCUING KEIKO REQUIRED ALL THE VIRTUE YOU'VE BEEN SAVING UP...



IS THAT ALL? SHEESH, I THOUGHT IT WAS SERIOUS!

HAH



WHAT GETS ME IS THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME I WAS REALLY FRUSTRATED WITH MY GHOST BODY.



SO MY OWN LIFE'S ON HOLD A WHILE LONGER. BIG DEAL!



I'D GIVE MY VIRTUE FOR KEIKO'S LIFE ANYTIME!

THE POWER OF VIRTUE IS BEHIND MANY OF THE MIRACLES AND COINCIDENCES AND TURNS OF FATE IN THE LIVING WORLD.

YOU KNOW HOW, WHEN SOMETHING GOOD HAPPENS TO YOU, PEOPLE SAY, "IT'S IN RETURN FOR THE GOOD YOU'VE DONE"? THAT'S VIRTUE.

MASTER KOENMA HAD TO TAP YOUR VIRTUE IN ORDER TO ACT JUST NOW.

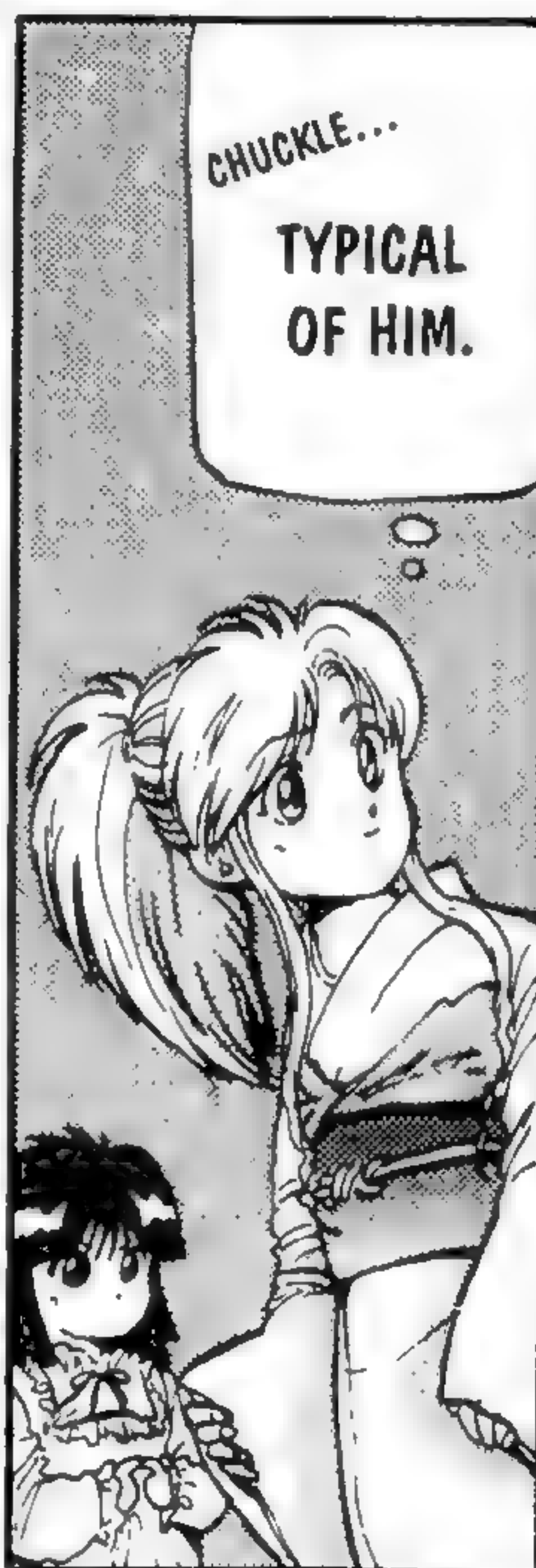






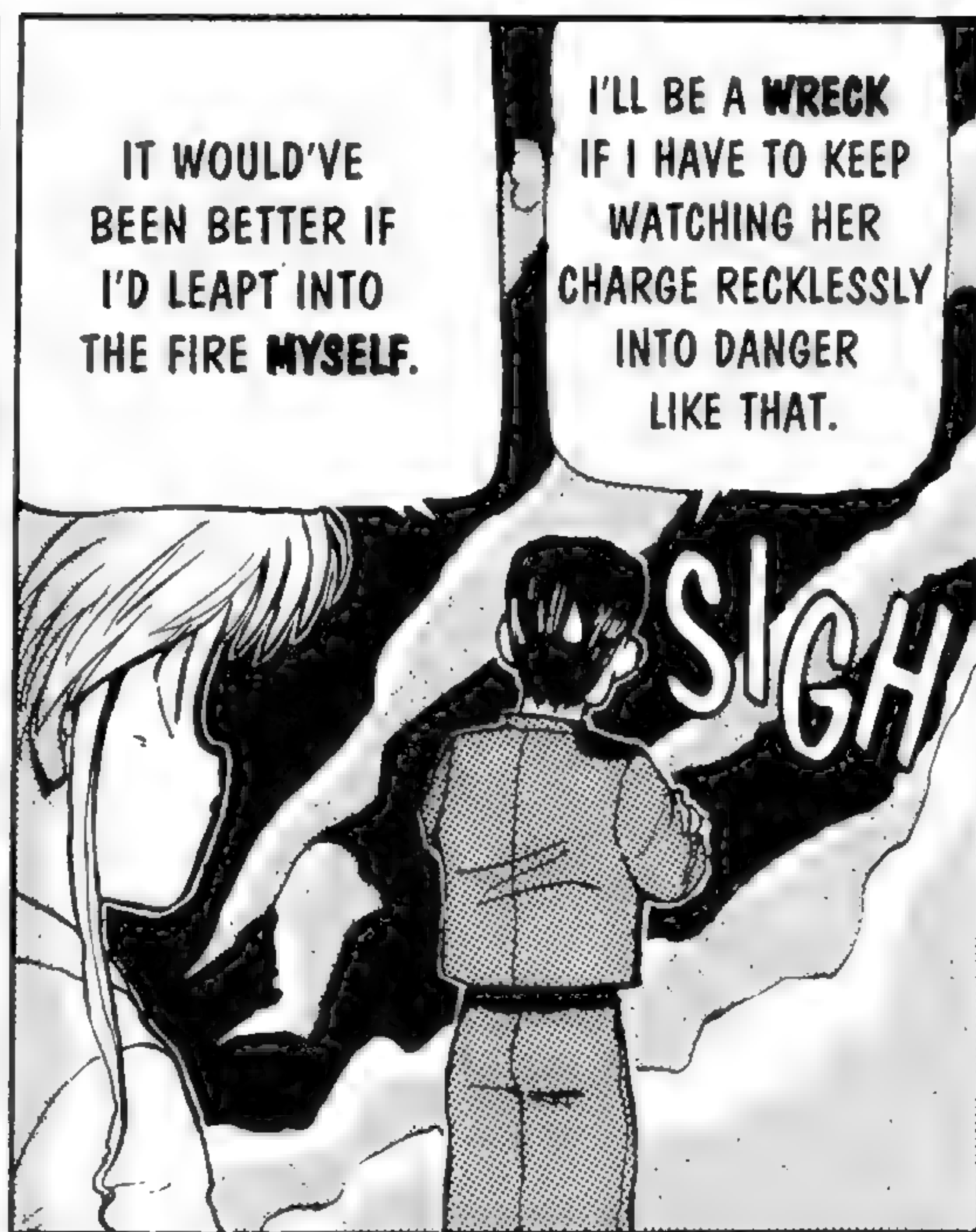
OKAY, FINE!  
YOU **PASS!!**

WITH  
**FLYING**  
**COLORS,**  
I MIGHT ADD.



CHUCKLE...

TYPICAL  
OF HIM.



IT WOULD'VE  
BEEN BETTER IF  
I'D LEAPT INTO  
THE FIRE **MYSELF.**

I'LL BE A **WRECK**  
IF I HAVE TO KEEP  
WATCHING HER  
CHARGE RECKLESSLY  
INTO DANGER  
LIKE THAT.



I WAS ALL SET  
TO JUDGE YOUR  
RELATIONSHIP...

...BUT YOU  
AND KEIKO ARE  
SO **RIGHT** FOR  
EACH OTHER  
IT'S **BORING.**

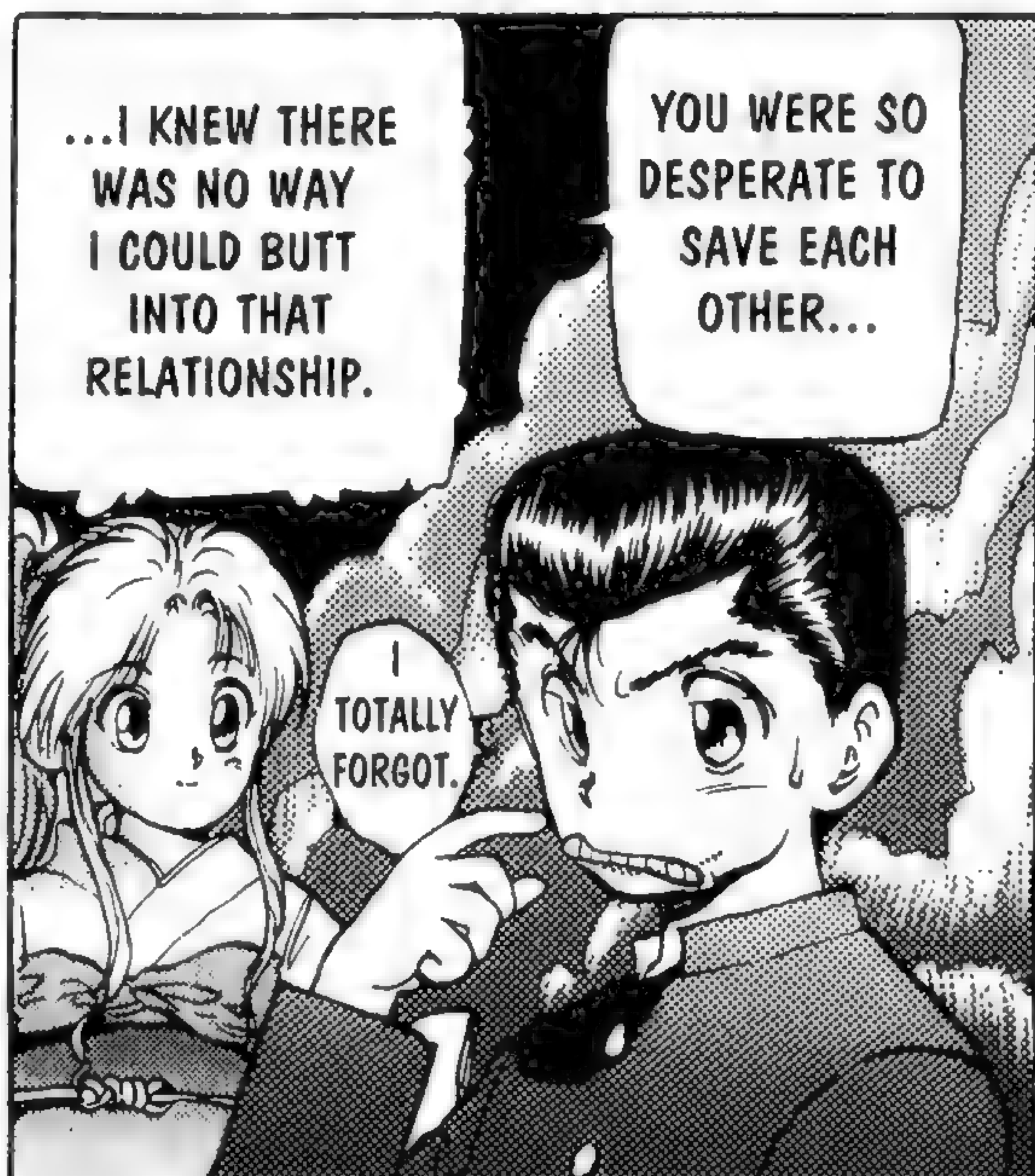


HM...?



I'VE HAD MY FUN,  
NOW IT'S TIME  
I WENT TO  
HEAVEN.

JUST AS WELL!  
I WON'T HAVE  
TO **WORRY**  
ABOUT YOU TWO  
ANYMORE!



...I KNEW THERE  
WAS NO WAY  
I COULD BUTT  
INTO THAT  
RELATIONSHIP.

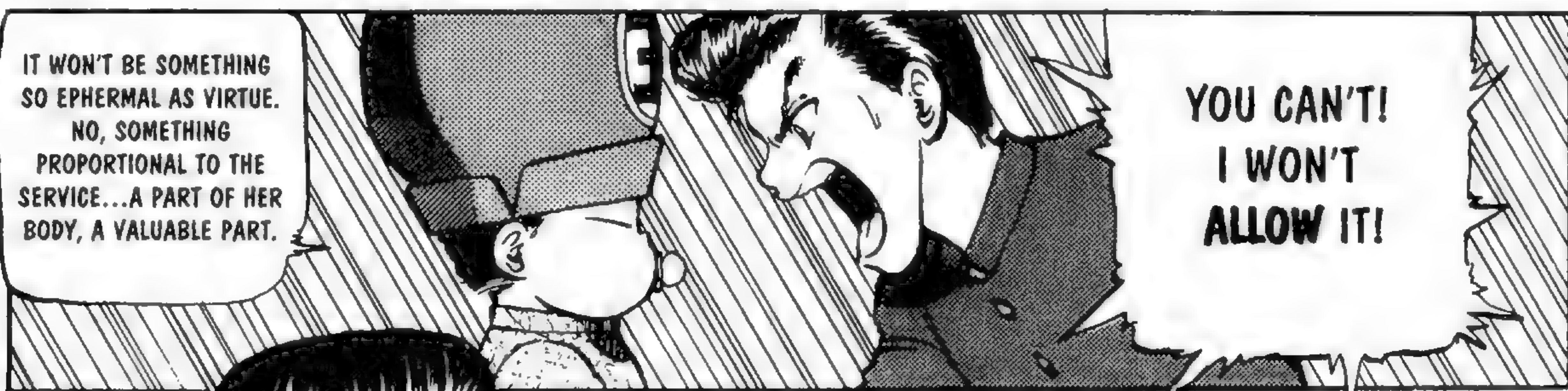
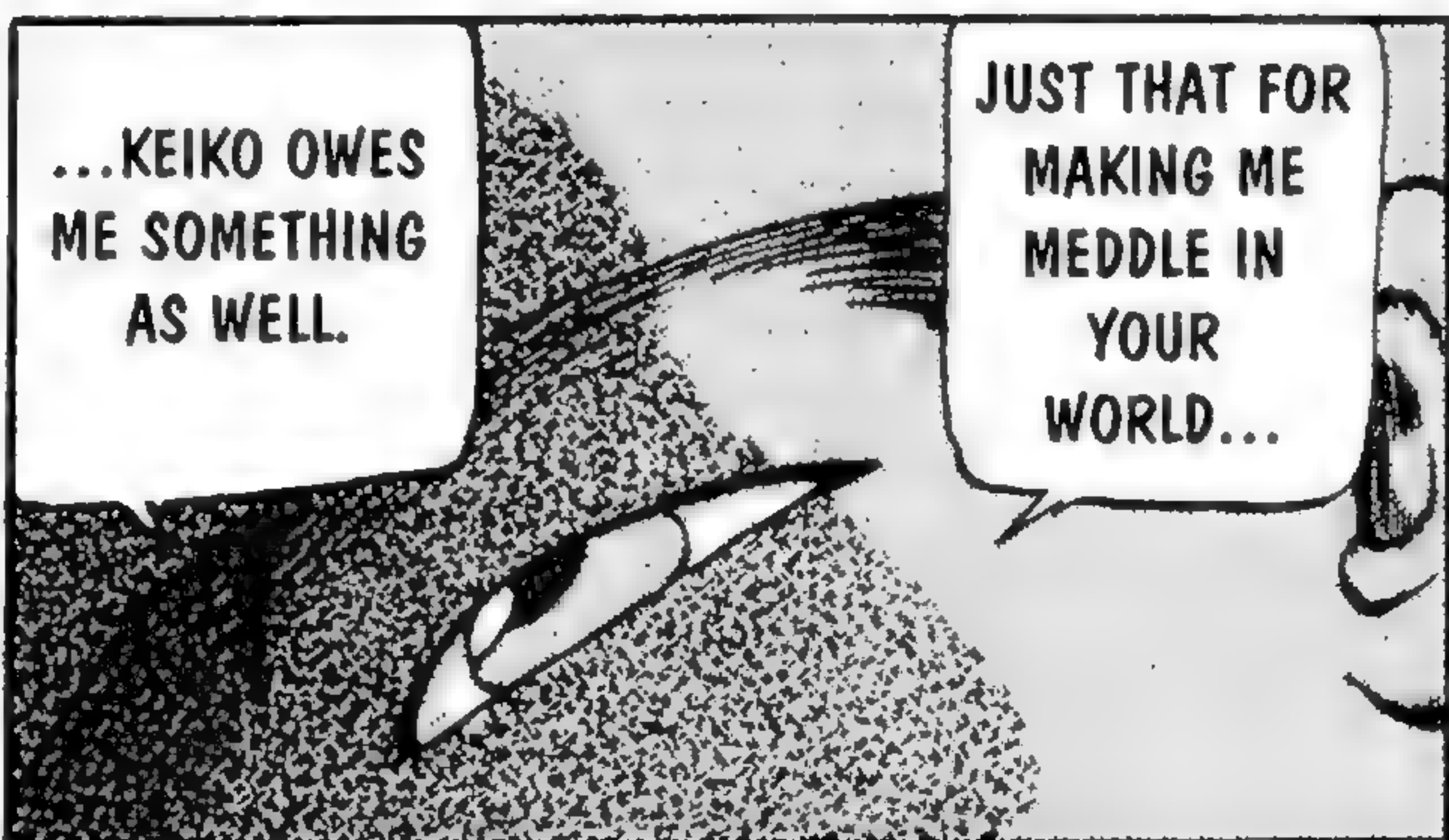
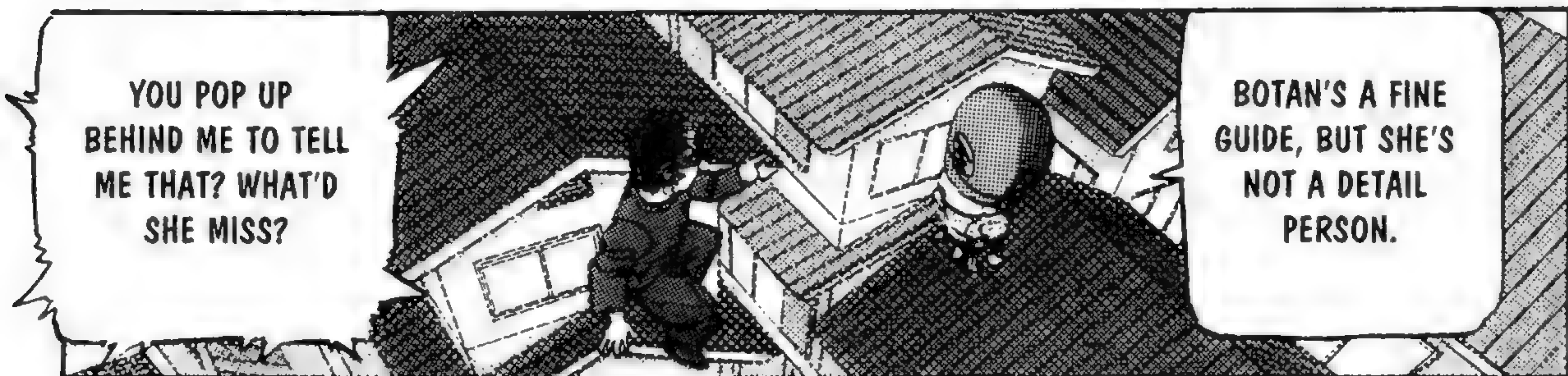
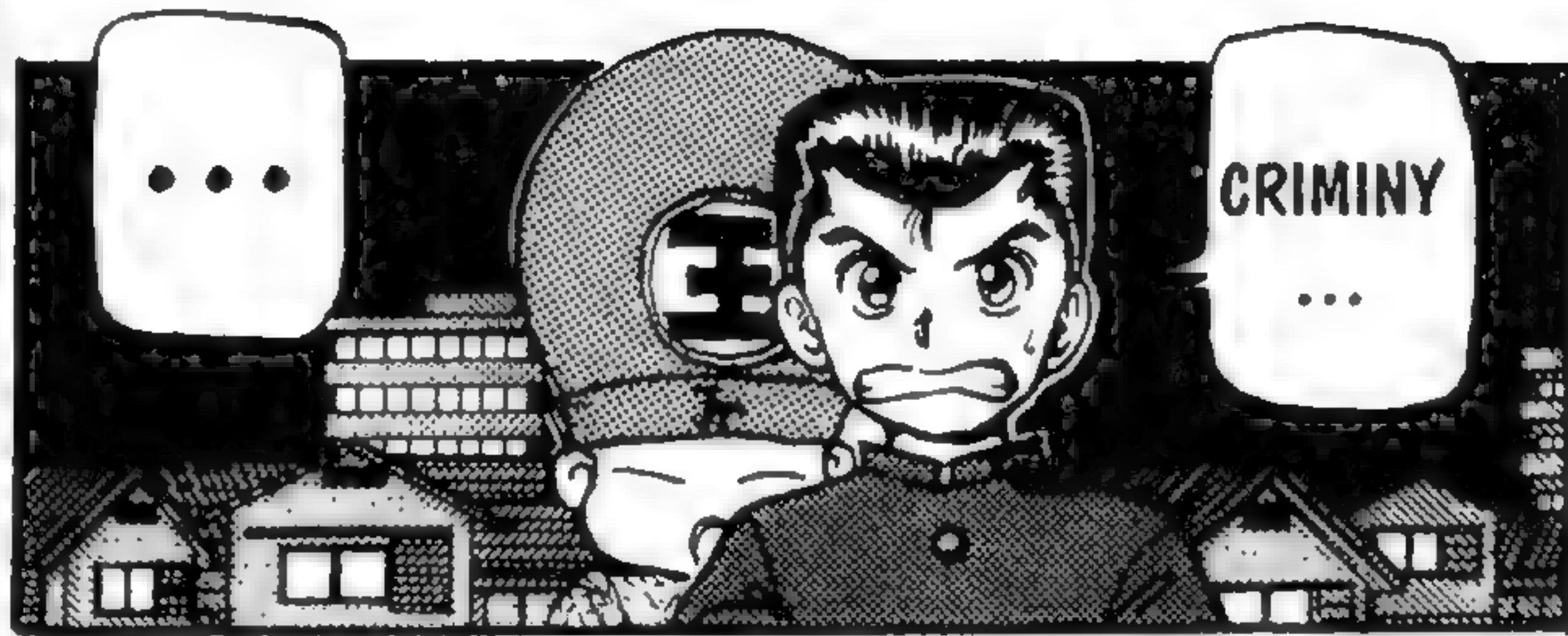
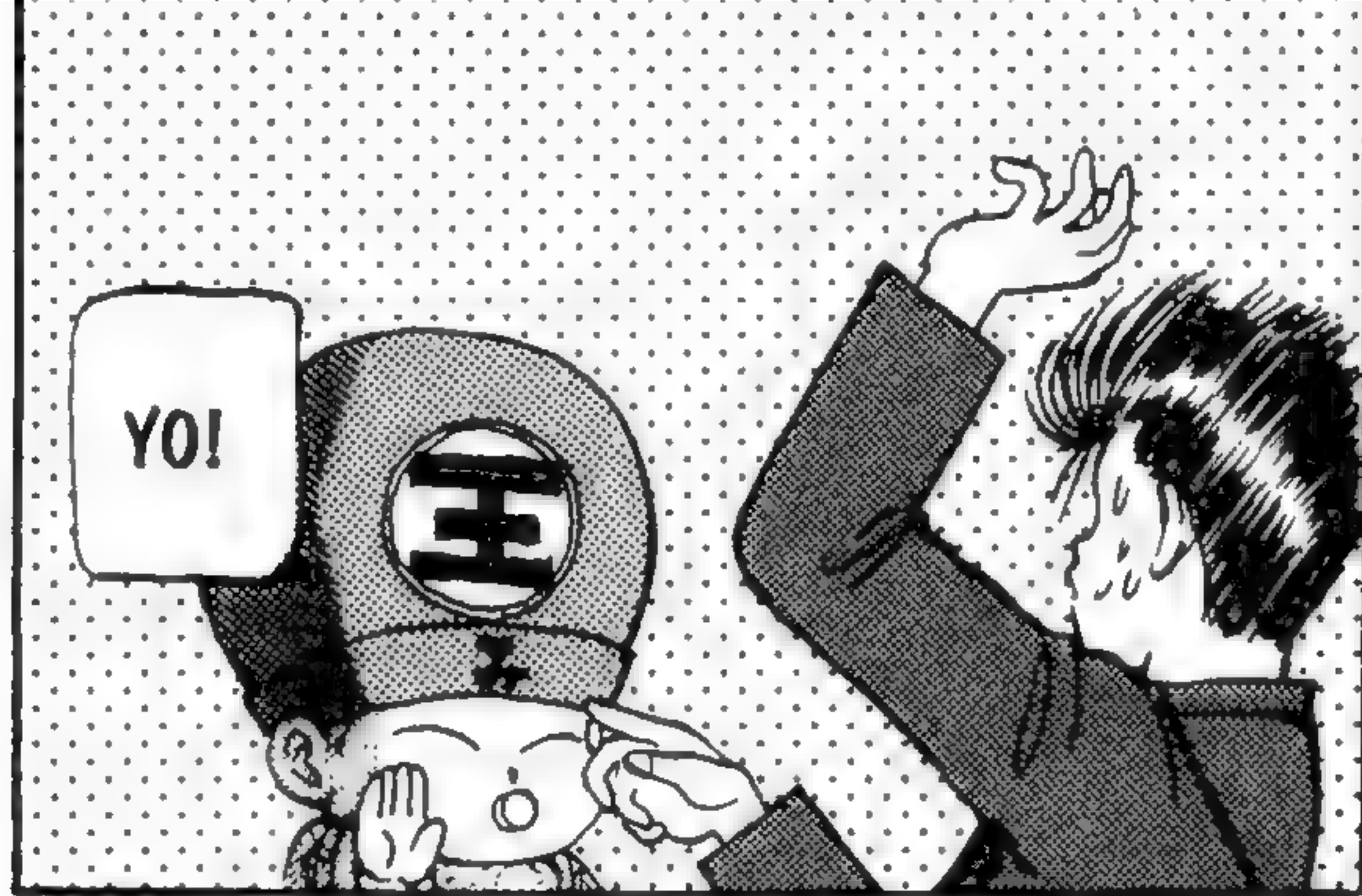
YOU WERE SO  
DESPERATE TO  
SAVE EACH  
OTHER...

I  
TOTALLY  
FORGOT.













THANKS,  
KUWABARA.

DON'T WORRY,  
MY FOLKS LIKE  
TO KEEP THEIR  
NOSES OUT OF  
STUFF LIKE THIS.

OKAY. AND  
URAMESHI CAN  
STAY IN MY  
ROOM FOR  
A WHILE.

GUESS  
I'M ALL  
SET!

A NEW  
HAIRDO,  
COURTESY OF  
KUWABARA'S  
SISTER



THANK YOU,  
BUT I HAVE TO  
DO THE SHOPPING  
AGAIN AND  
GET HOME.

KEIKO, WAS IT?  
WOULD YOU LIKE  
TO STAY AND HAVE  
DINNER WITH US,  
MEAGER AS  
IT'LL BE?

...



HA HA HA  
...HER HAIR.  
SURPRISED?

BY PART OF  
HER **BODY**,  
YOU MEANT...



COME  
BACK  
HERE!!



LATER.

SURPRISED?!  
I OUGHTA  
...!!

BWINK

HEY, NO FAIR  
BWINKING OUT!  
YOU LED ME ON!!





BUT YOU SAID YOU HAD TO...?

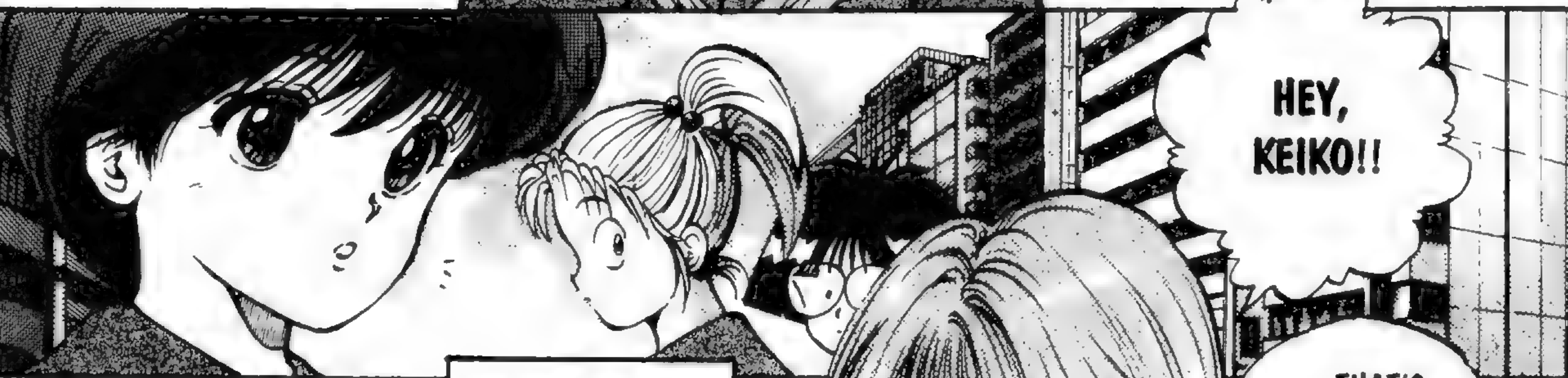
NO, NOT AT ALL.

DOES IT LOOK FUNNY?

YEAH, KINDA HAD TO.

KEIKO, YOU GOT YOUR HAIR CUT!

NEXT DAY...



HEY, KEIKO!!

THAT'S KUWABARA'S SISTER.

WEIRD THEY'RE RELATED.

**SHIZURU KUWABARA**

17 YEARS OLD  
ASPIRING BEAUTICIAN  
HAS A STRONGER  
SIXTH SENSE  
THAN HER BROTHER  
TYPE OF MAN: BUNTA  
SUGAWARA, KEN TAKAKURA

HM.

THE NEW 'DO LOOKS ALL RIGHT.

YES?

OH... JUST A SEC.

SEE YOU LATER.

AW, THAT'S OKAY, KEEP 'EM. YOU'RE LUCKY YOU ONLY LOST YOUR HAIR.

I'LL WASH AND RETURN YOUR CLOTHES...

THANKS TO YOU. YOU'RE REALLY GOOD.

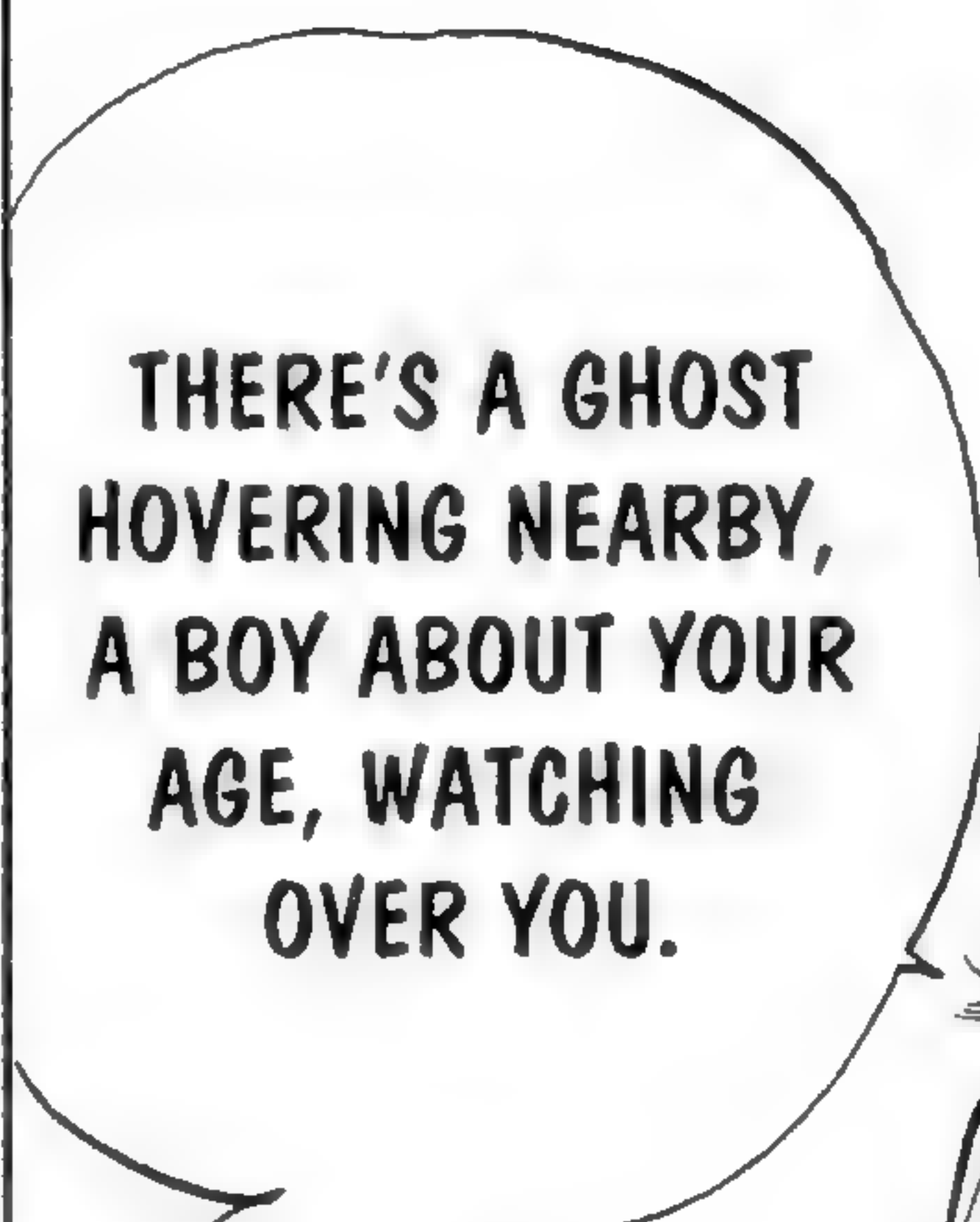
YEAH ...

KEIKO'S GOTTEN TO KNOW SOME...UH... INTERESTING PEOPLE LATELY...

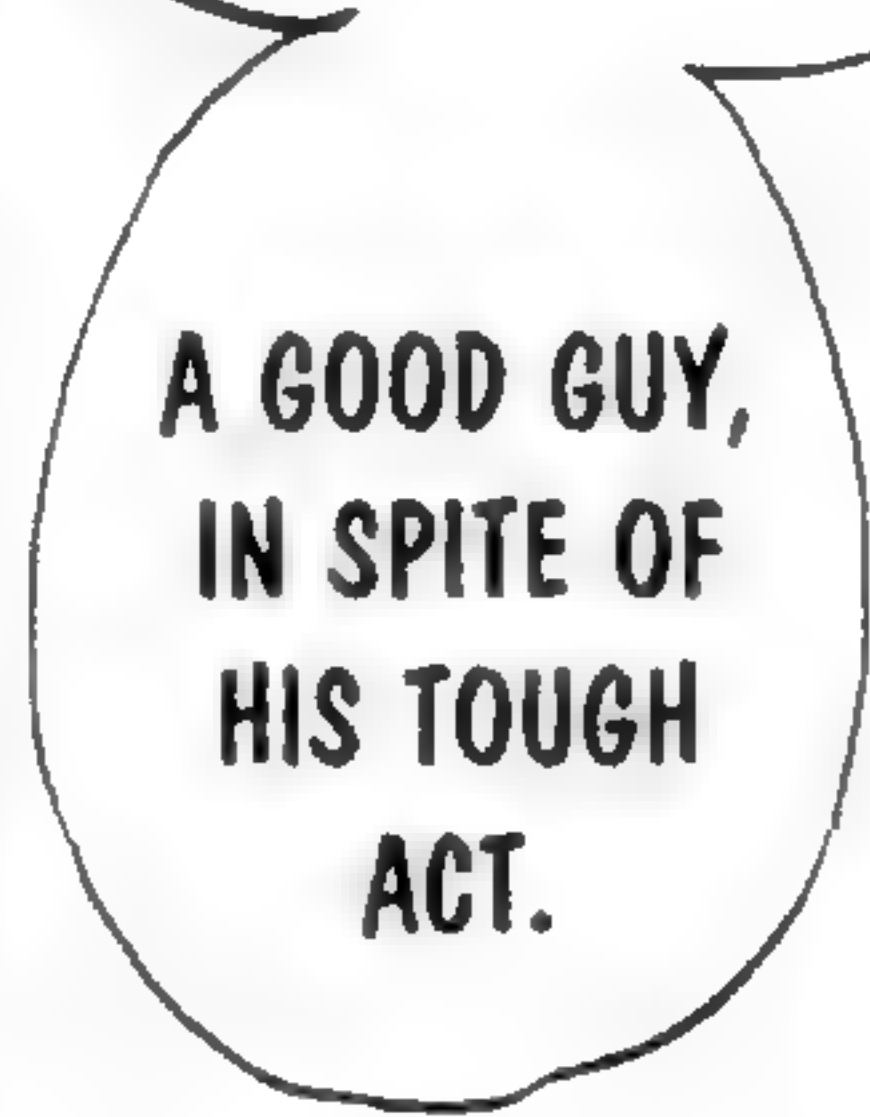




RING  
A BELL?



THERE'S A GHOST  
HOVERING NEARBY,  
A BOY ABOUT YOUR  
AGE, WATCHING  
OVER YOU.



A GOOD GUY,  
IN SPITE OF  
HIS TOUGH  
ACT.



YEAH!











CHAPTER 15: JUST ONE WIN!!





YOU SAY  
YOU KNOW  
HIM?

WE MET  
IN GRADE  
SCHOOL.

C'MON!



I KNOW  
THAT  
GUY!!

IT'S  
MATSU  
THE DUD!!



REALLY?  
THAT WAS  
NICE OF YOU.

YOU LOOK LIKE  
YOU'RE HAVING  
FUN... NOT.



WAAH HA HA



SUEKICHI MATSUO,  
CALLED MATSU THE DUD  
BECAUSE HE WAS A FLOP  
AT EVERYTHING. HE WAS  
A BULLY MAGNET, SO I'D  
COME TO HIS RESCUE.



...BUT FROM  
THE LOOKS OF  
THINGS, HE DIDN'T  
GET VERY FAR  
WITH IT.

FUNNY, HE SAID  
HE WANTED  
TO GET INTO  
BOXING IN  
JUNIOR HIGH...

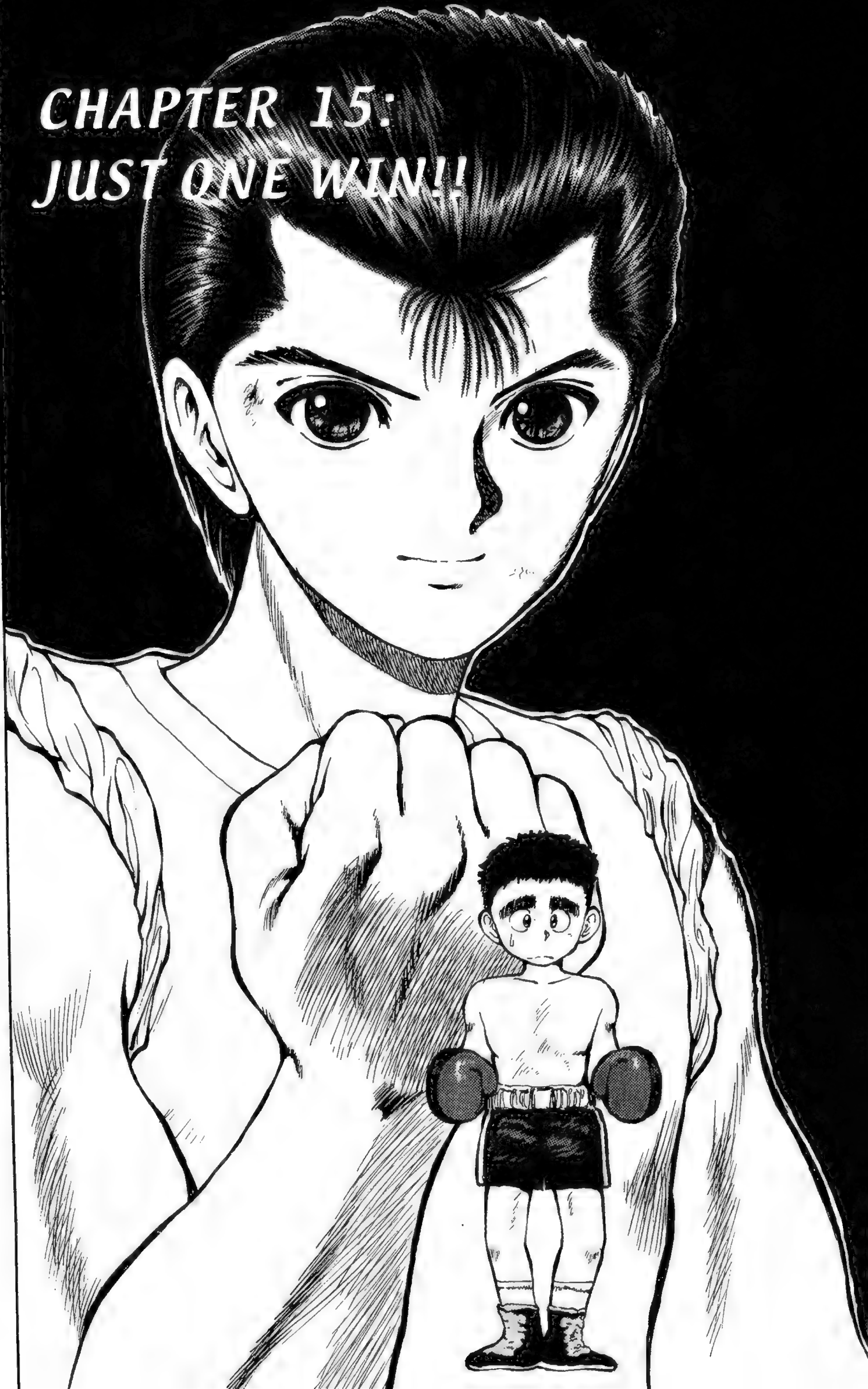


FEH.  
SHOULD'VE  
KNOWN...

AT 1000 YEN  
PER RESCUE,  
IT WAS A SWEET  
DEAL.



**CHAPTER 15:**  
**JUST ONE WIN!!**















GUESS I'LL  
GO WAIT IT OUT  
AT MATSU'S  
PLACE.

WAITING  
WON'T BE  
ENOUGH  
THIS TIME.



...WHAT  
DO I DO  
TO GET  
OUT?

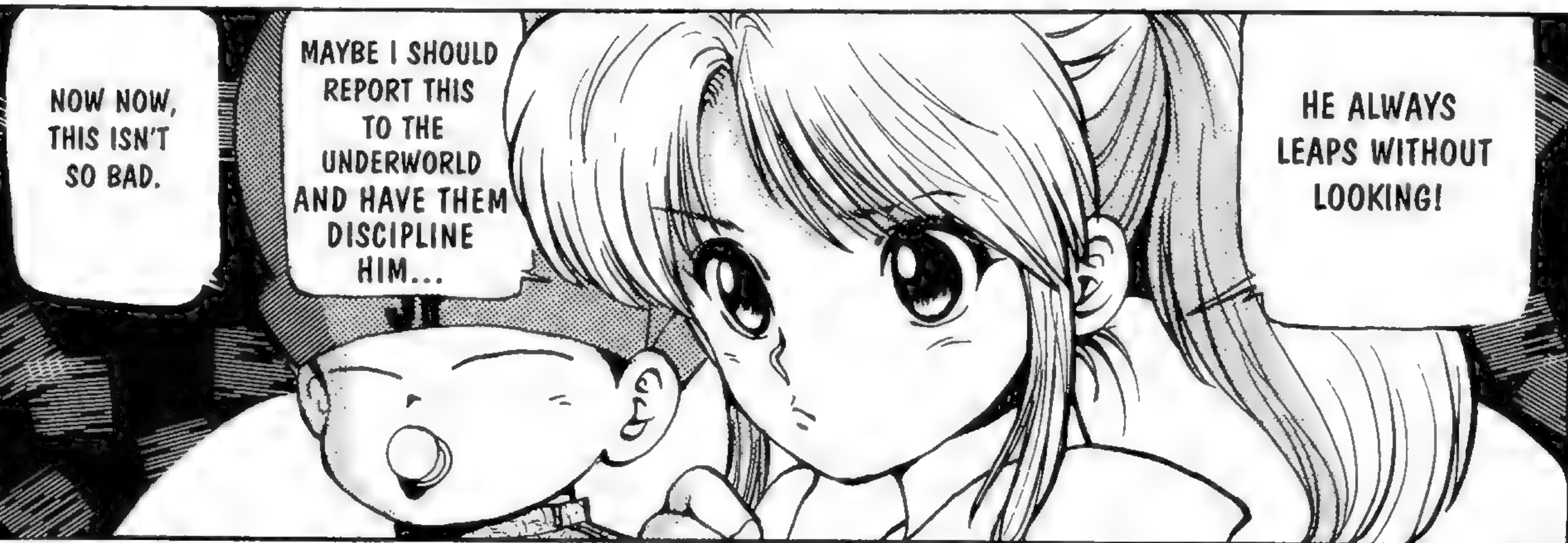
WILL I GET  
EJECTED  
AFTER  
30 MINUTES,  
LIKE WITH  
KUWABARA?

OKAY...  
I GOT INTO  
THIS BODY  
WITHOUT  
THINKING,  
SO...



HMPH...  
THAT'S IT?  
THOSE GUYS  
HAD CHUMP  
CHANGE!

NO WONDER  
THEY MUGGED  
HIM.



NOW NOW,  
THIS ISN'T  
SO BAD.

MAYBE I SHOULD  
REPORT THIS  
TO THE  
UNDERWORLD  
AND HAVE THEM  
DISCIPLINE  
HIM...

HE ALWAYS  
LEAPS WITHOUT  
LOOKING!



...AND  
WE'VE MADE  
A DECISION  
TO...

ACTUALLY,  
WE HAD  
A MEETING  
IN THE  
UNDERWORLD...



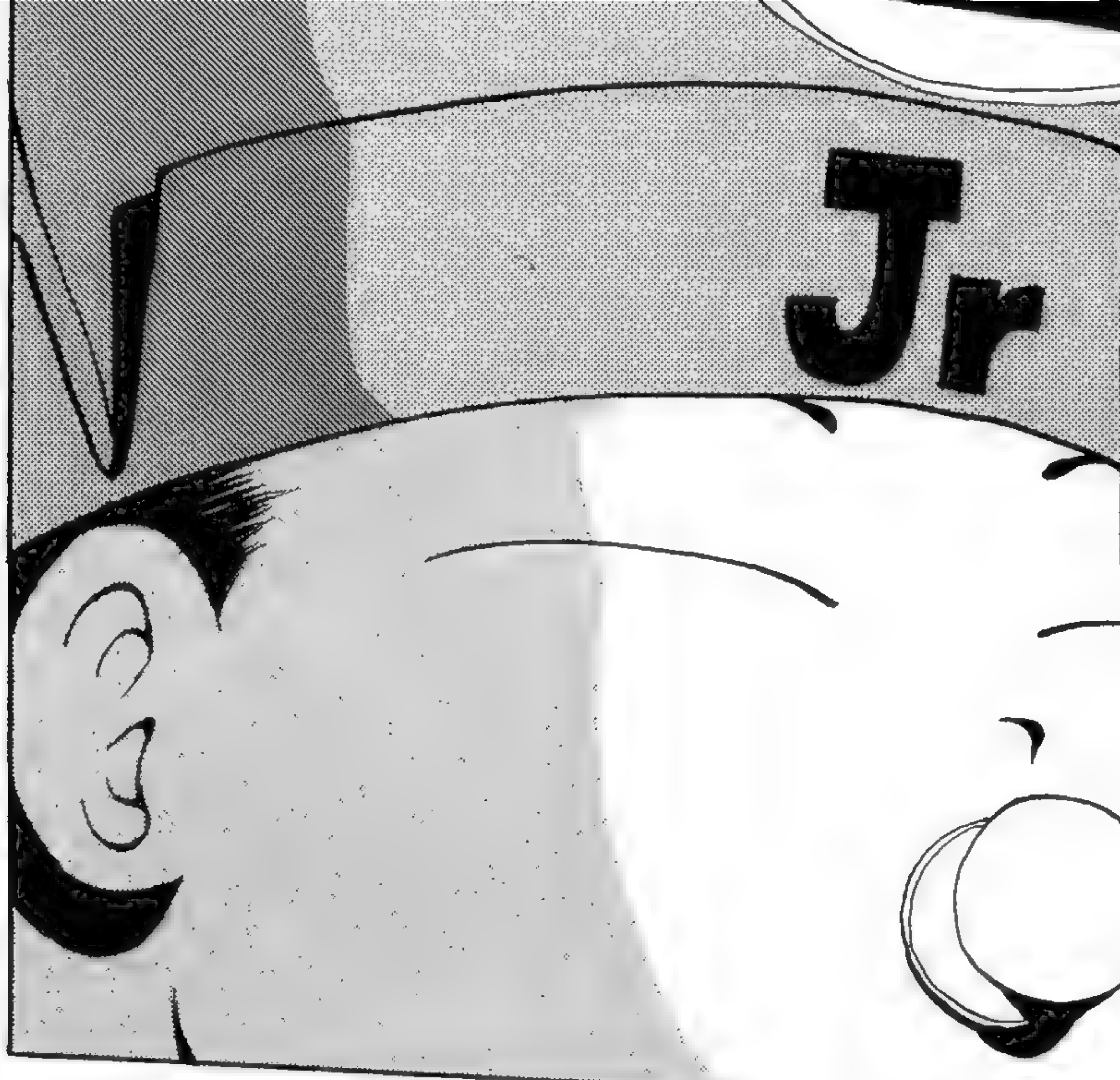
YOU'RE  
BACK?

MASTER  
KOENMA?!

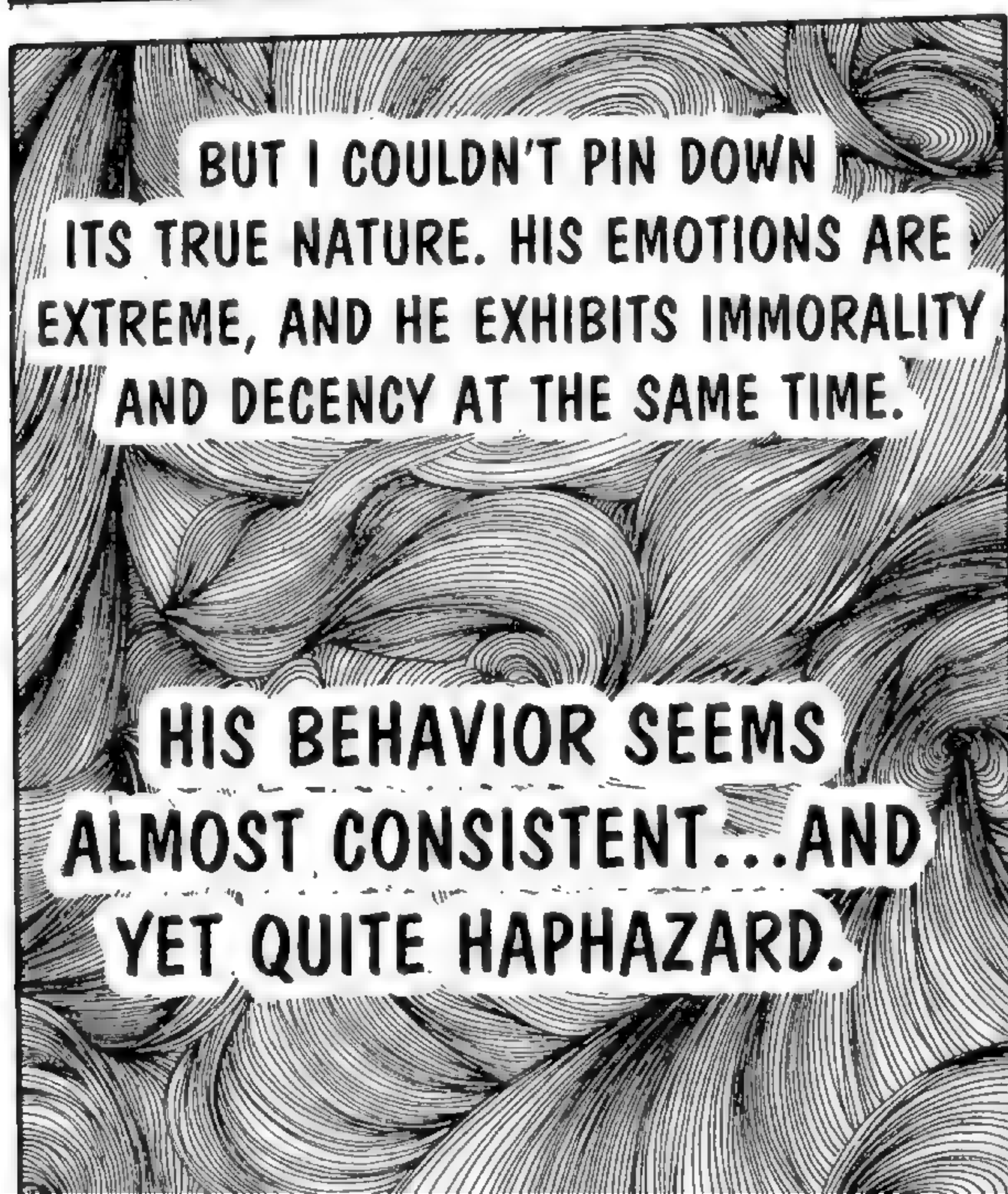
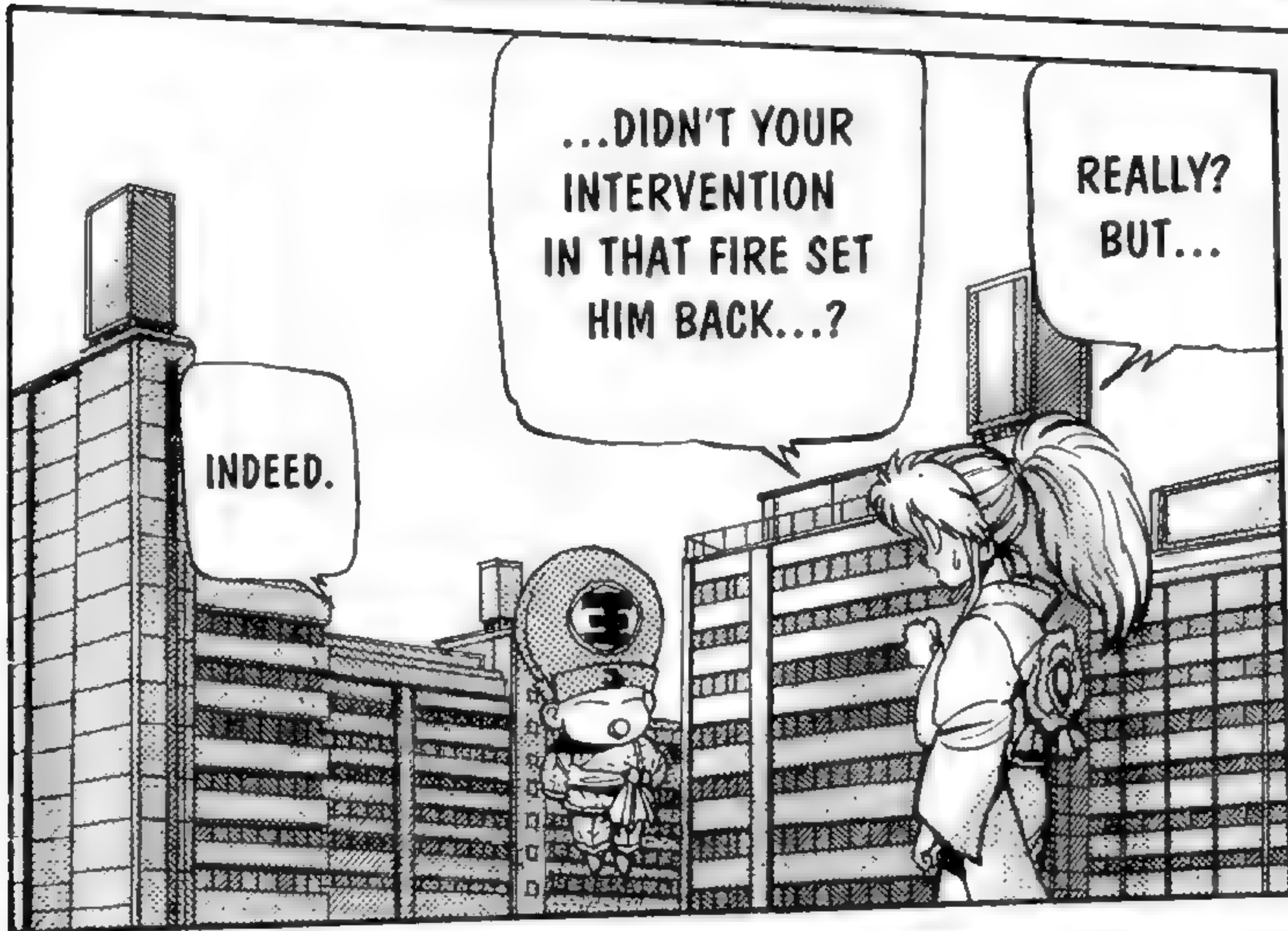
HUH?  
WHOA!!

YEP—TWO  
CHAPTERS  
IN A ROW!





...LET YUSUKE  
URAMESHI **BACK**  
INTO HIS **BODY**.



BUT I COULDN'T PIN DOWN  
ITS TRUE NATURE. HIS EMOTIONS ARE  
EXTREME, AND HE EXHIBITS IMMORALITY  
AND DEGENCY AT THE SAME TIME.

HIS BEHAVIOR SEEMS  
ALMOST CONSISTENT...AND  
YET QUITE HAPHAZARD.





HE'S A  
SIMPLETON  
TOTALLY GEARED  
TO PHYSICAL  
RESPONSES!

...ACTS  
ENTIRELY  
WITHOUT  
THINKING!

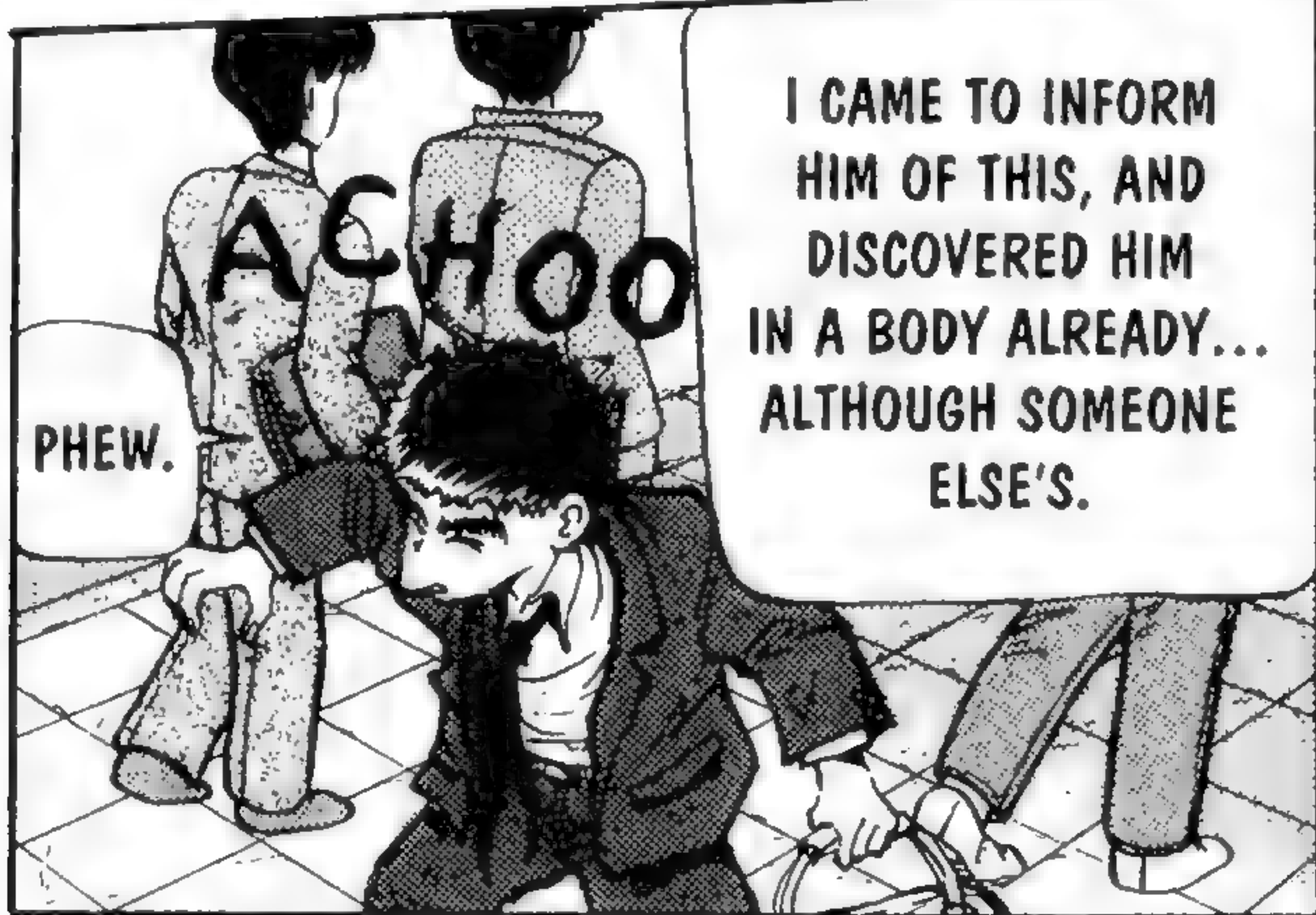
WE REACHED  
THE ONLY  
POSSIBLE  
CONCLUSION!!

T A

D A

IN OTHER  
WORDS,  
HE'S AN  
IDIOT!

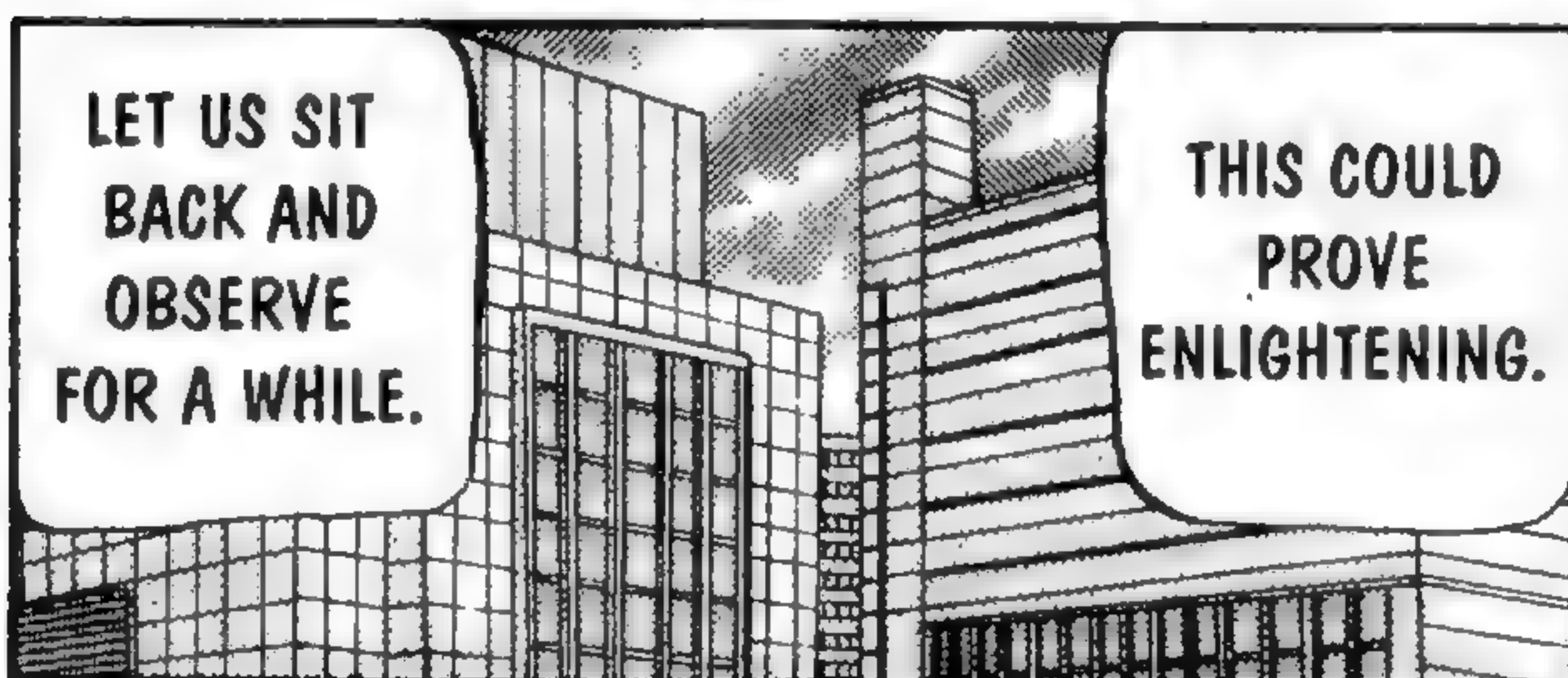
THIS PERSON  
YUSUKE  
URAMESHI...



I CAME TO INFORM  
HIM OF THIS, AND  
DISCOVERED HIM  
IN A BODY ALREADY...  
ALTHOUGH SOMEONE  
ELSE'S.

WITHOUT  
A BODY, HIS  
NATURE LACKS  
DEFINITION.

IT'S POINTLESS  
TO TRY TO JUDGE  
HIS CHARACTER  
WHILE HE'S  
A BODILESS  
GHOST.



LET US SIT  
BACK AND  
OBSERVE  
FOR A WHILE.

THIS COULD  
PROVE  
ENLIGHTENING.

SUCH  
WAS OUR  
CONCLUSION.







...THEN WE'LL  
RETURN HIM TO HIS  
BODY FOR GOOD!

IF YUSUKE CAN  
HELP THAT BOY SOLVE  
HIS PROBLEMS OR  
ACHIEVE HIS GOALS...



...

...BUT WE CAN  
BE FLEXIBLE WHEN  
THE OCCASION  
CALLS FOR IT.

SURE, IT'LL  
BREAK SOME  
LONGSTANDING  
RULES...

HE'S OKAY,  
I THINK, DEEP  
DOWN. AS HIS  
GUIDE, WOULDN'T  
YOU AGREE?

I WOULD!



YES?

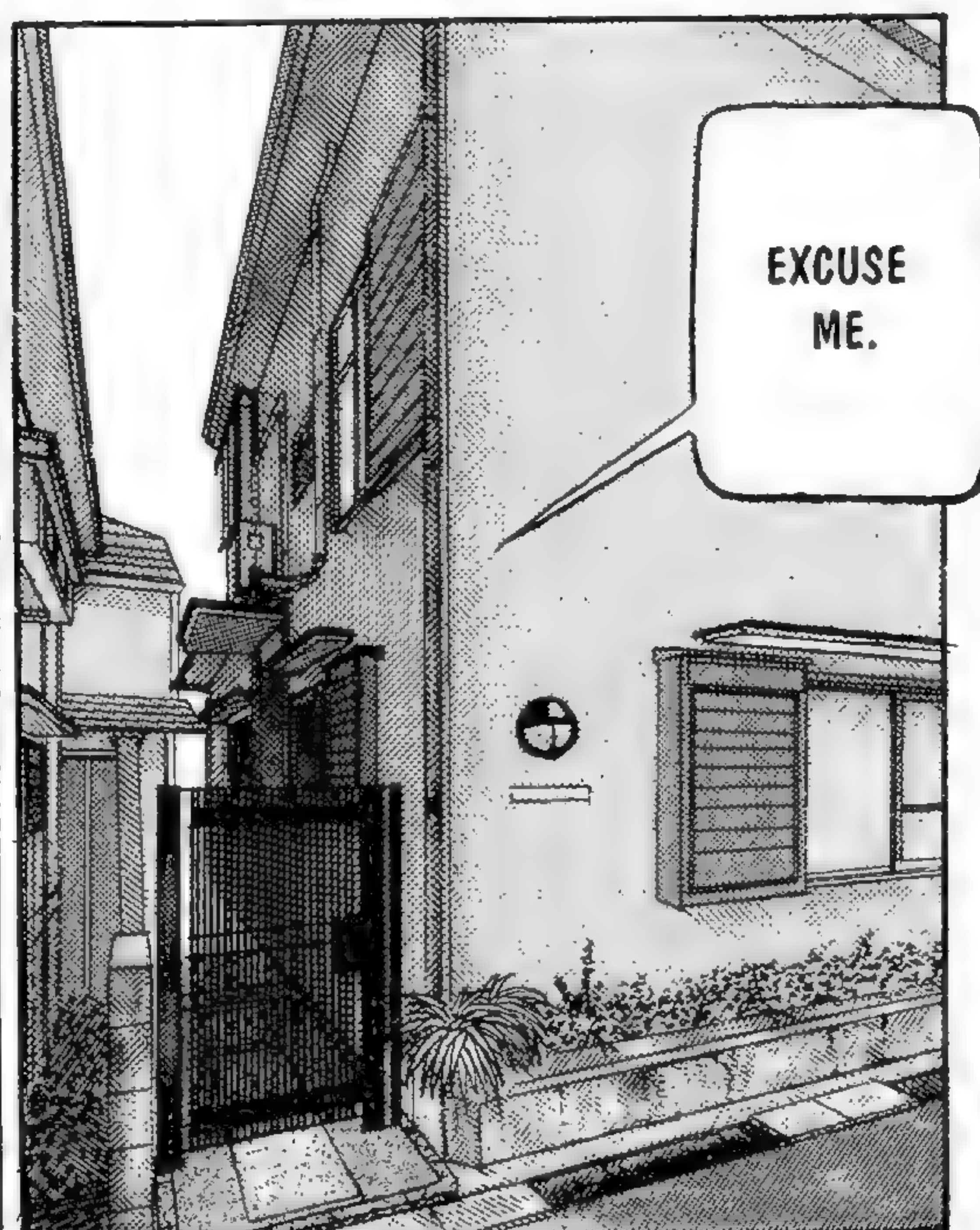
SUEKICHI'S MOM



HEY THERE,  
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU  
IN A WHILE. NICE  
PLACE YOU GOT.

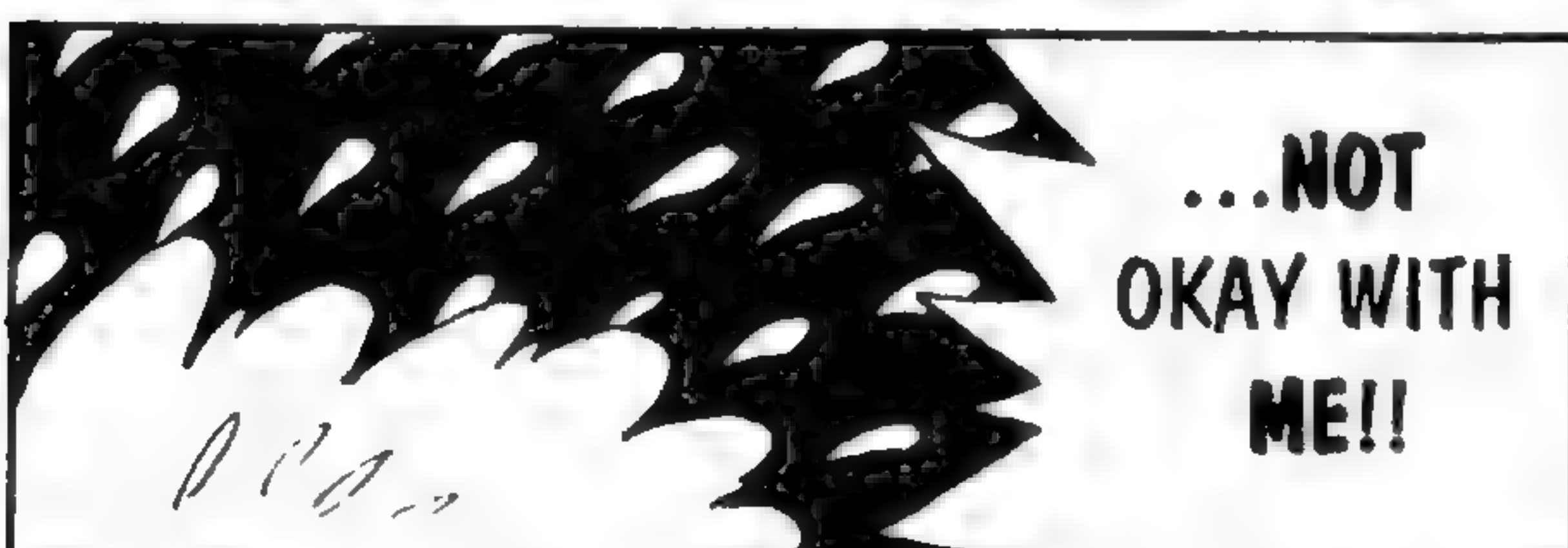
HUH?

PITTER  
PATTER



EXCUSE  
ME.







YUSUKE,  
I'M NOT INTERESTED  
IN BOXING TO GET  
BACK AT A BUNCH  
OF BULLIES.

HE USED TO  
GO ON ABOUT IT  
ALL THE TIME...

MY ONLY GOAL  
IS **VICTORY!** AND  
I WANT TO EXPERIENCE  
IT JUST ONCE.

SKILL AND  
DISCIPLINE  
ARE  
EVERYTHING!

BOXING IS A PURE SPORT,  
WHERE OPPONENTS PRAY FOR  
EACH OTHER BEFORE THE  
MATCH AND PRAISE EACH  
OTHER AFTERWARDS.

UNH...  
MMM...

UM?

SO FAR,  
NO GOOD,  
I GUESS.

...

MY  
GOAL:  
ONE  
WIN!

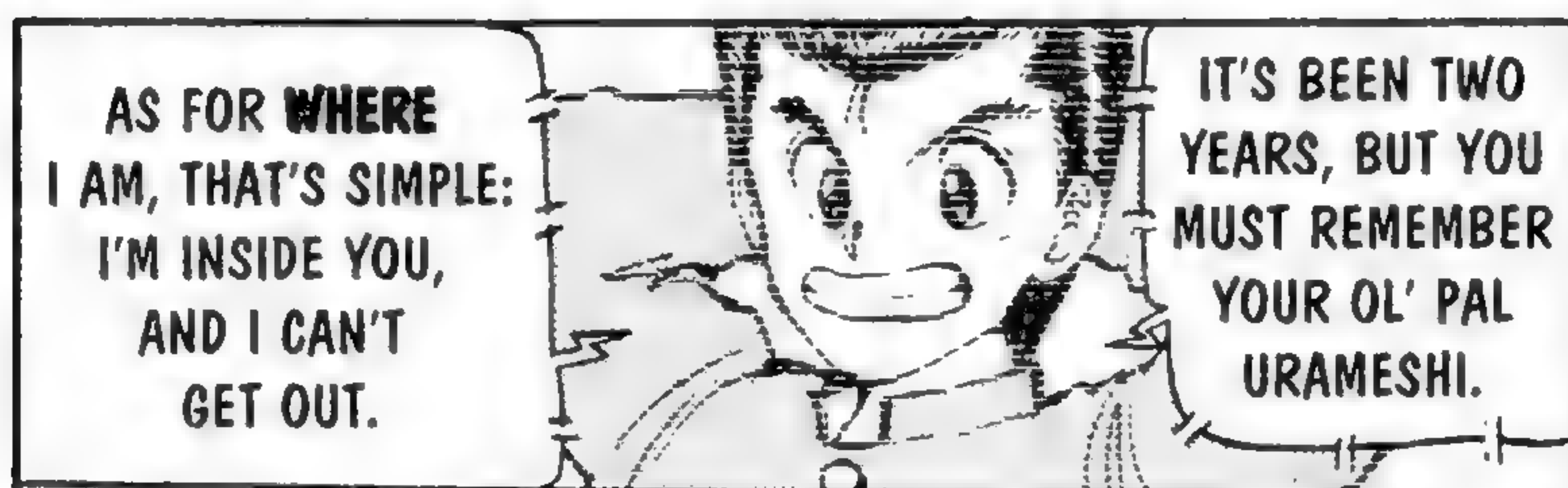
HOW DID  
I GET HERE?  
MUST'VE  
WANDERED  
BACK...

WHAT THE...?  
THIS IS MY  
ROOM...

OH...  
OUCH.

BA-  
BUMP









NOW YOU  
KNOW I'M NOT  
A DREAM.

EVEN AFTER  
A NIGHT'S SLEEP,  
I STILL  
HEAR YOU...

THE  
NEXT  
DAY...

DING  
DONG  
DING  
DONG



ARGH!! YOU USED  
**MY BODY** TO RUMMAGE  
AROUND MY ROOM  
WHILE I WAS **ASLEEP?!**

TEXTBOOKS,  
ALL THAT BOXING  
STUFF, BUT NOT  
SO MUCH AS ONE  
**GIRLIE MAG.**



GOTTA SAY,  
YOUR ROOM  
DOESN'T  
OFFER MUCH  
DISTRACTION.



I'M GOING TO BE  
THE SECOND-YEAR  
REPRESENTATIVE  
FOR MY SCHOOL.  
IT'LL BE MY LAST  
CHANCE.

THERE'S  
A CITY-WIDE  
JUNIOR HIGH  
TOURNAMENT  
5 DAYS FROM  
NOW.



JUNIOR  
HIGH'S  
ALMOST  
OVER,  
Y'KNOW.

DO YOU  
HAVE EVEN  
ONE SHOT  
AT A  
MATCH?



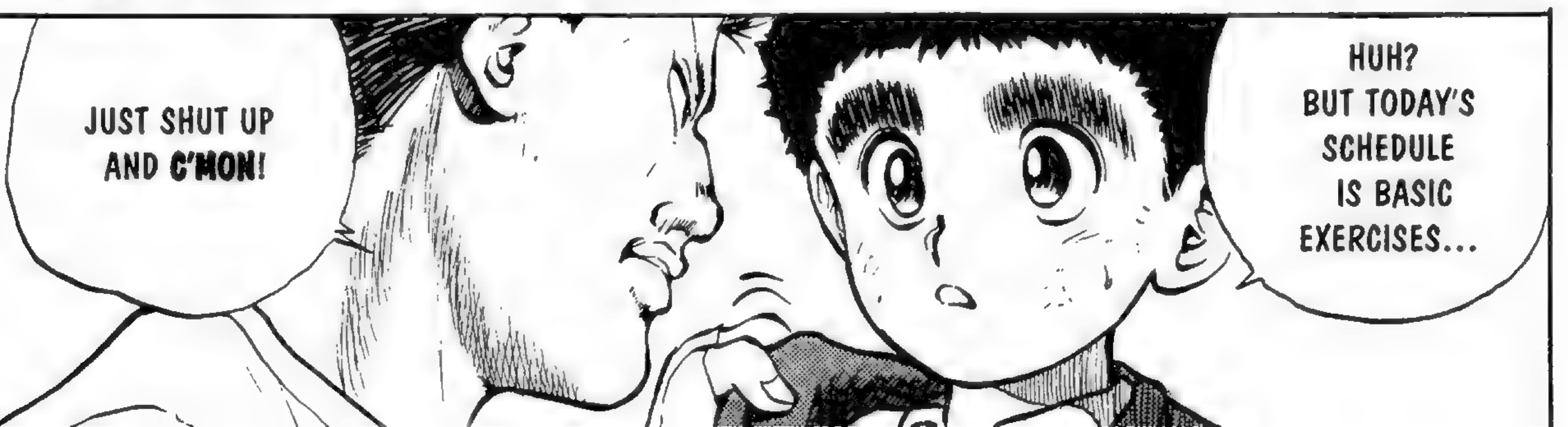
SHUT  
UP!

YOU'RE  
**SHAMELESS!**  
ALWAYS HAVE  
BEEN!

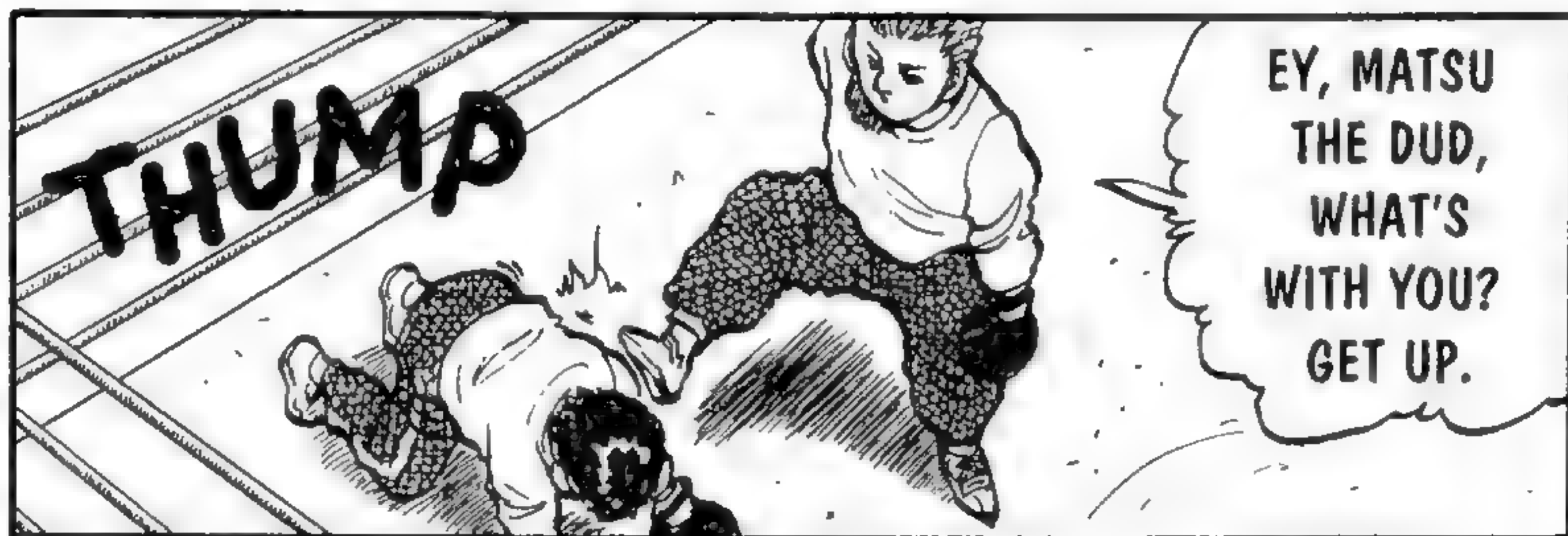
**BONK**

OW!

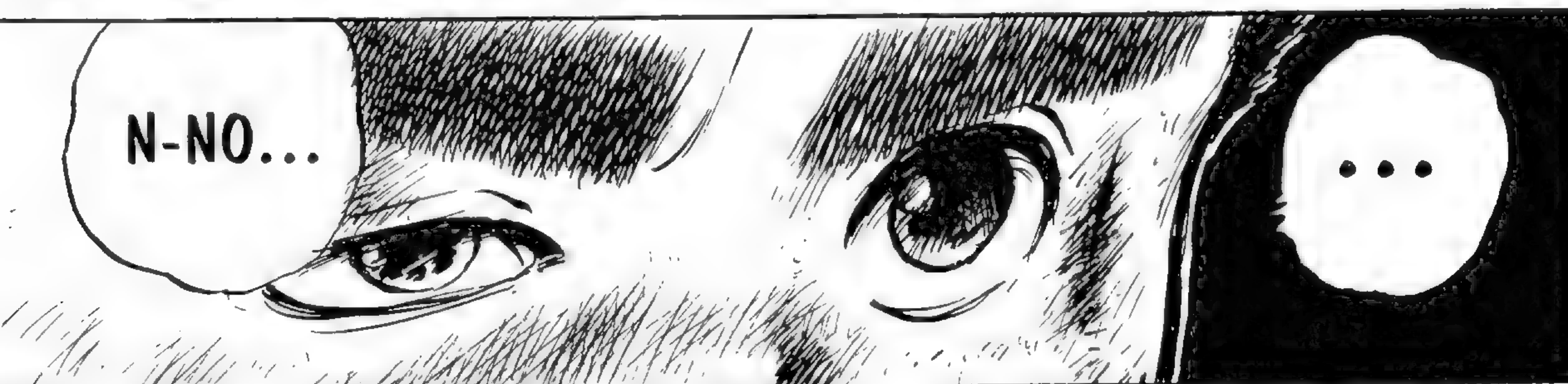
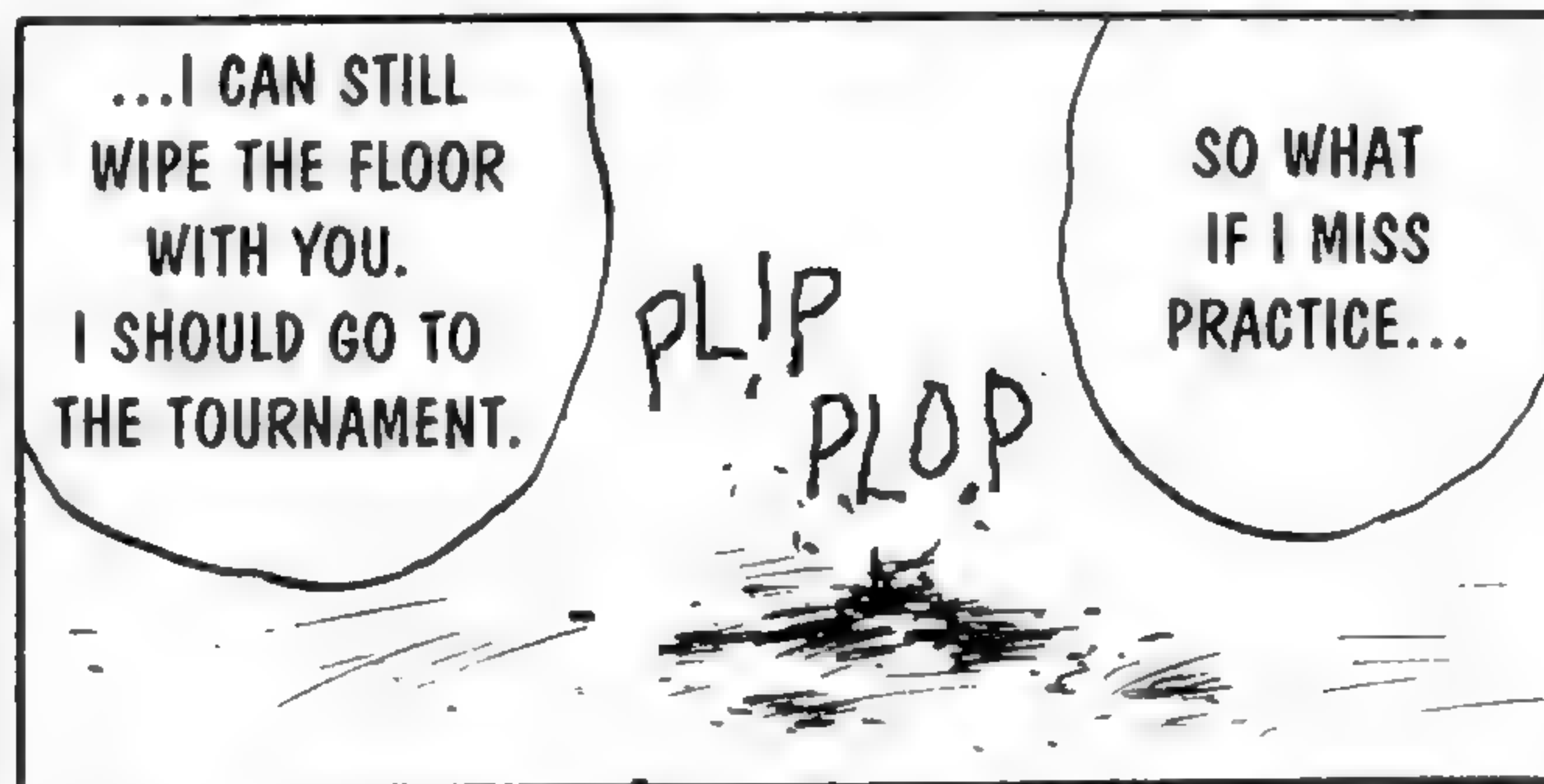




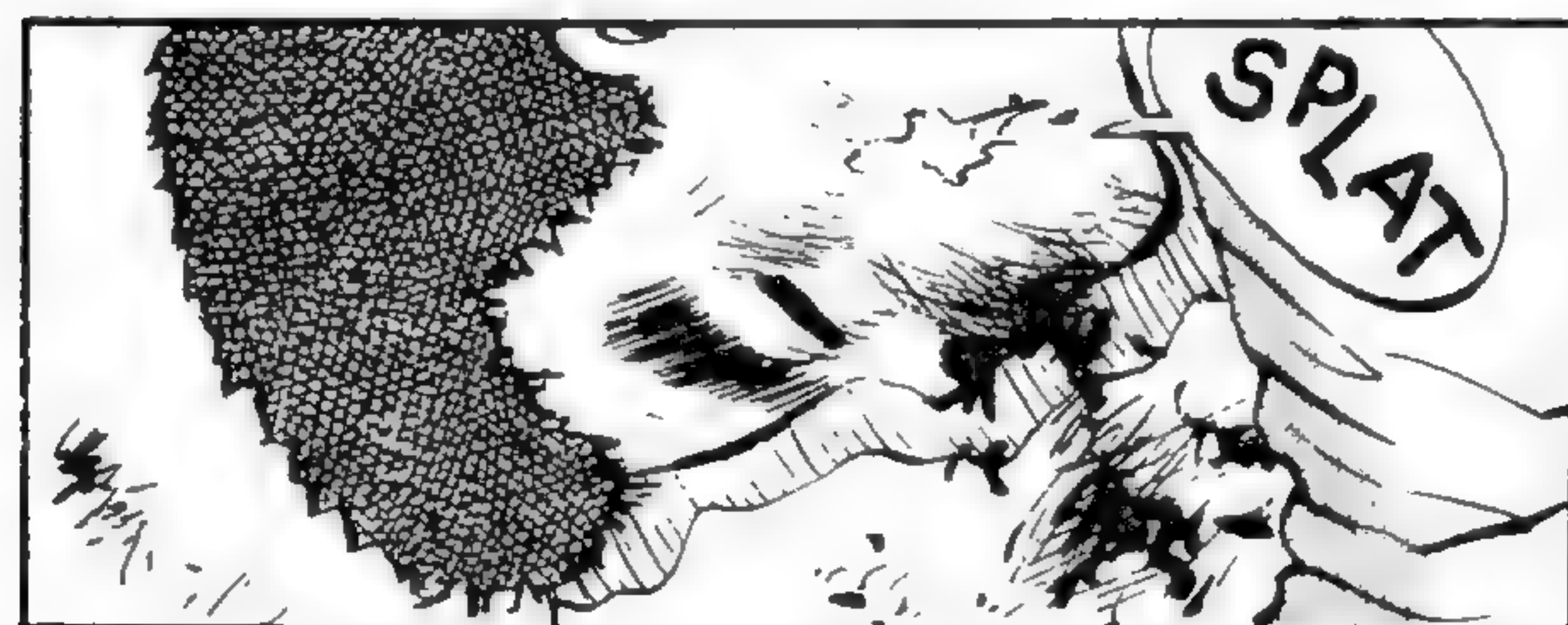
















SO LET'S FORGET  
YOUR SPORT  
AND DO THINGS  
MY WAY.



RIGHT,  
SUEKICHI?



THIS ISN'T  
BOXING...

I'VE  
HAD  
ENOUGH.

...IT'S JUST  
STREET  
SCRAPPING.

BASTARD.

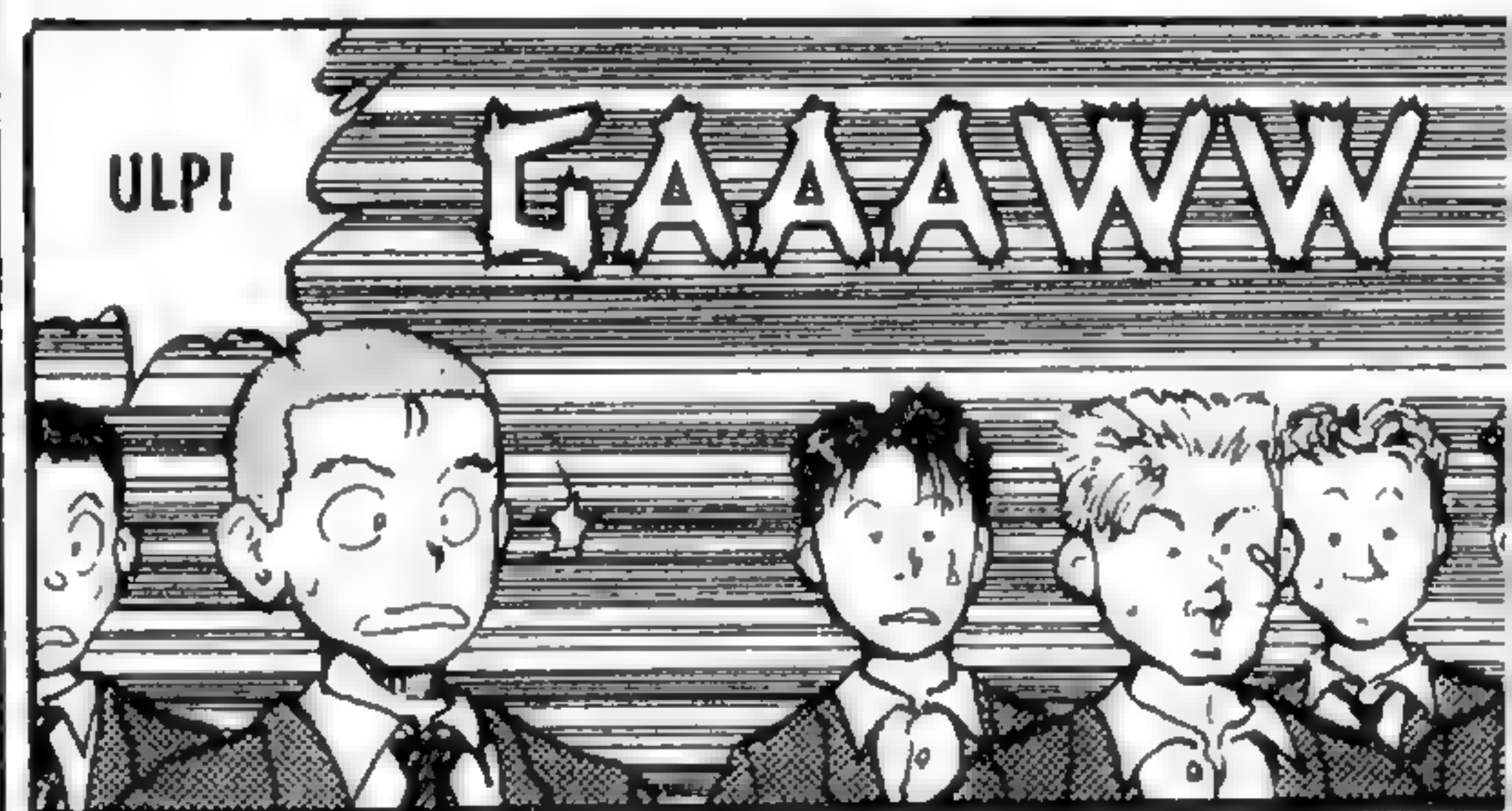
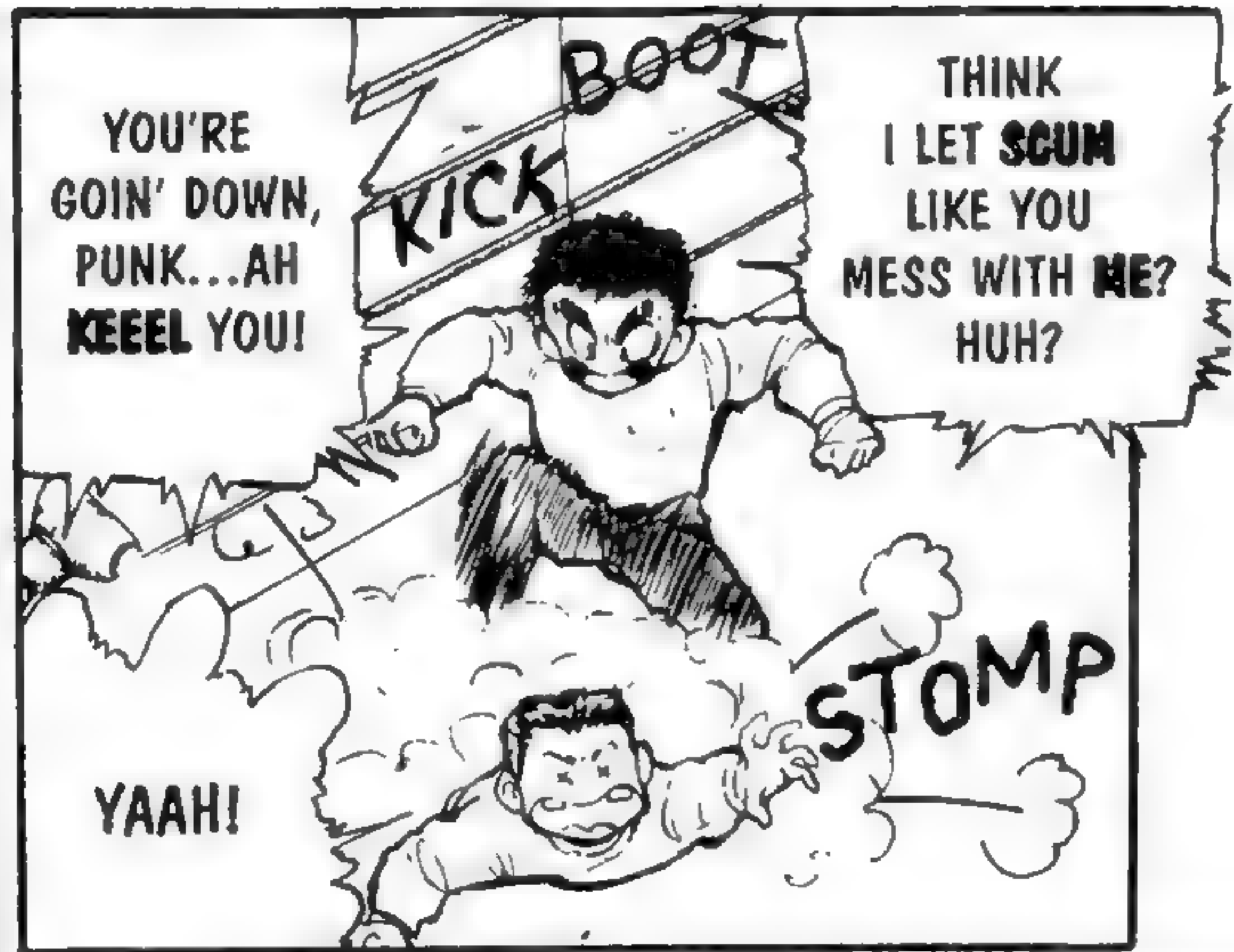


...BUT IF  
YOU WANT MORE,  
IT'S MY PLEASURE!

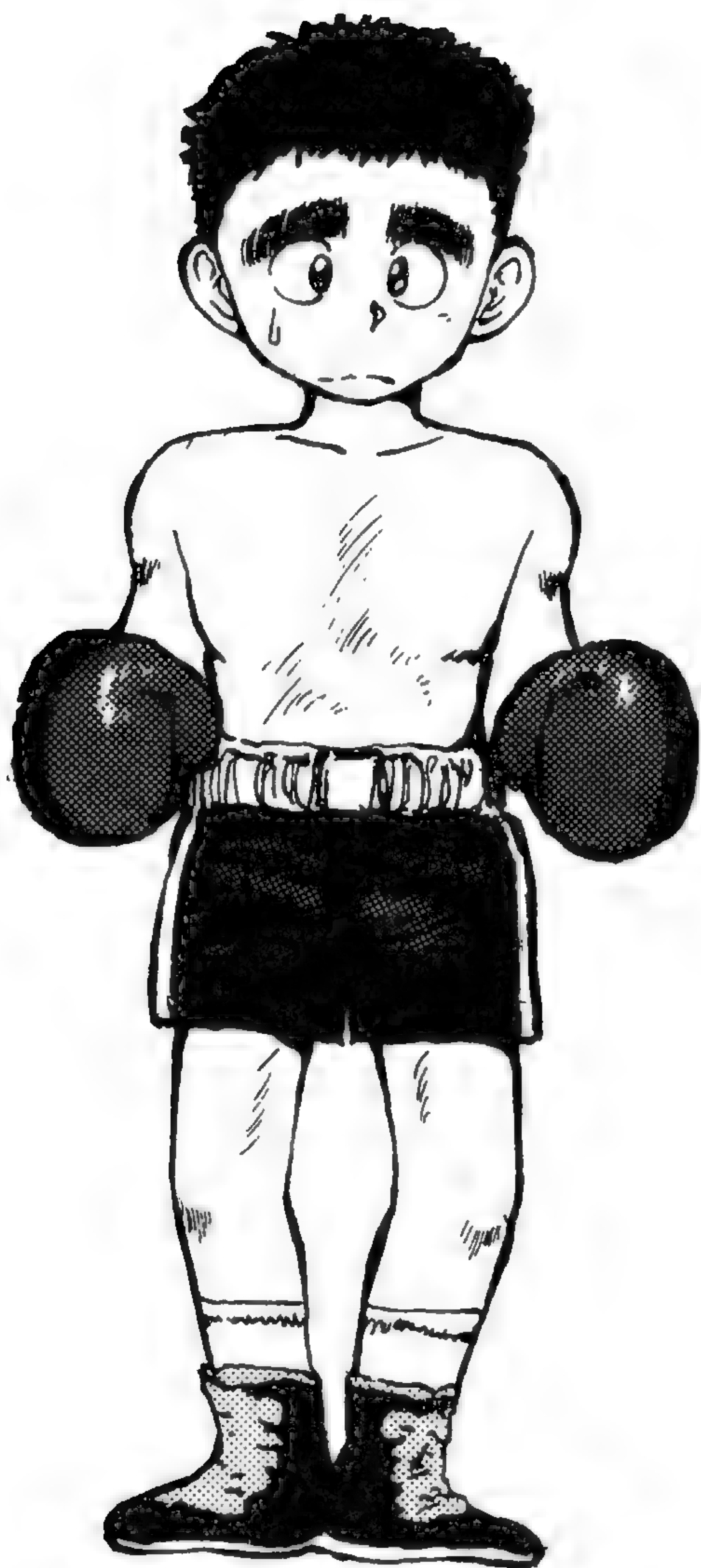
DUNNO WHAT  
YOU'RE MUMBLING  
ABOUT...





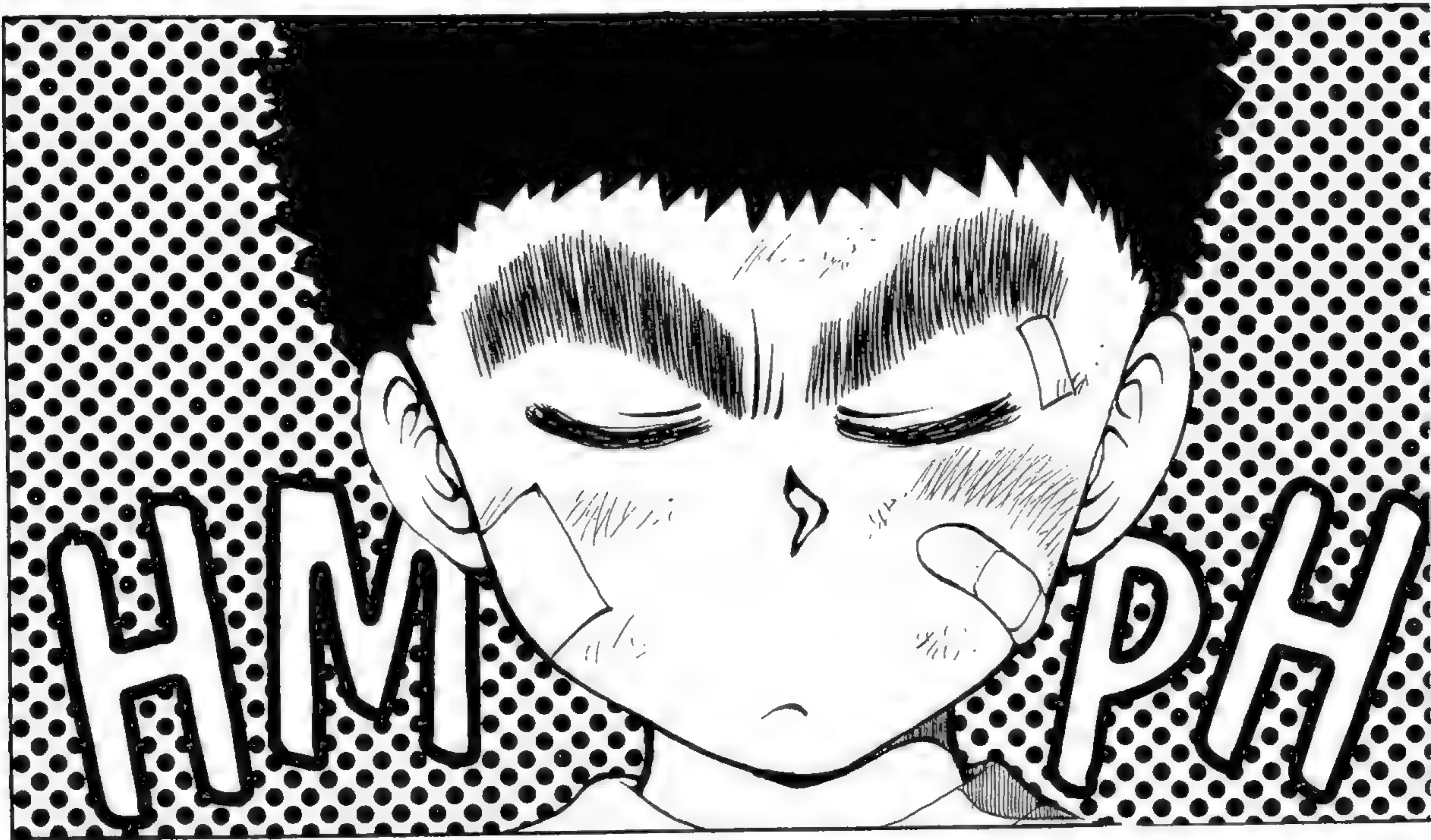
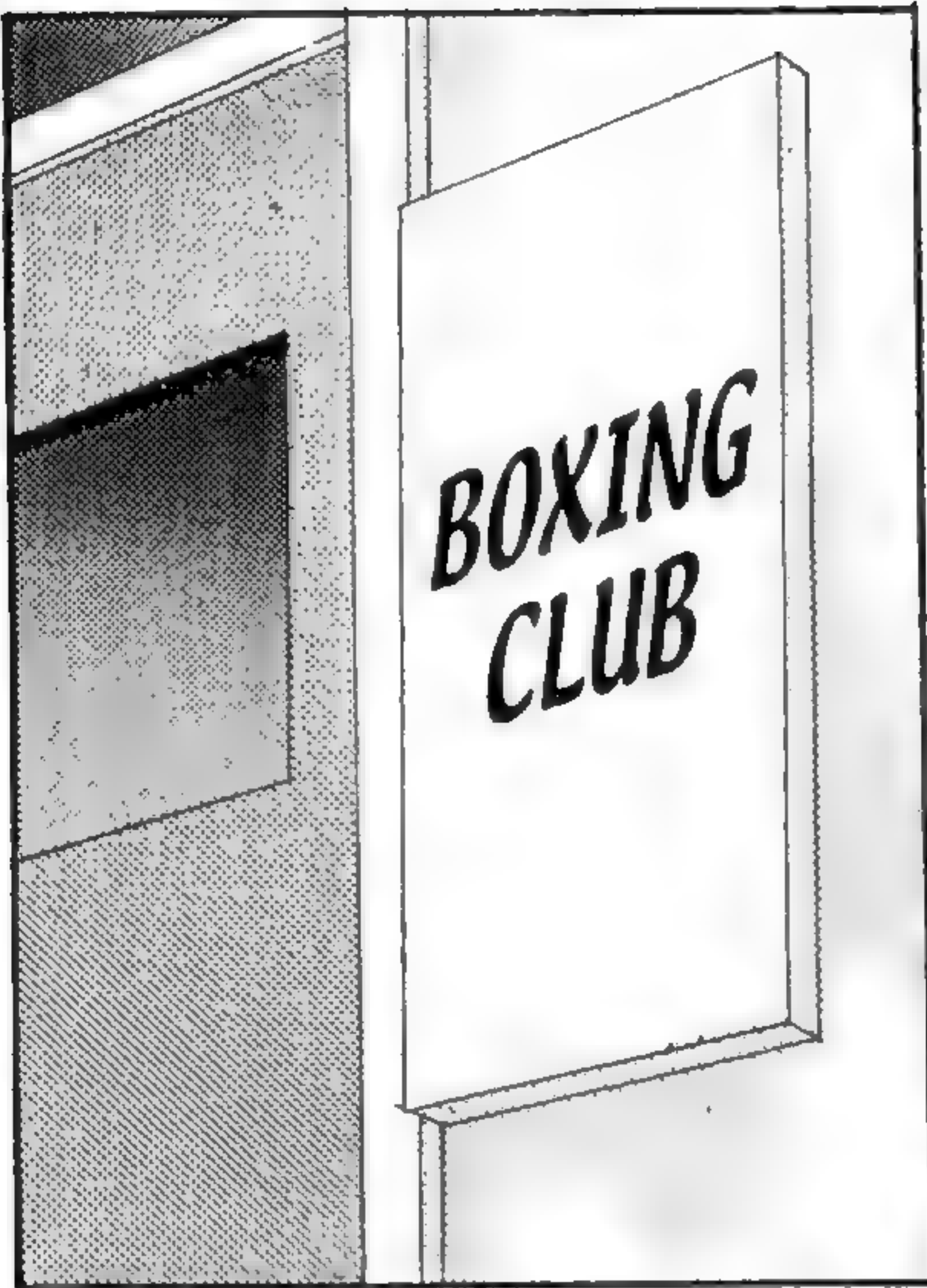




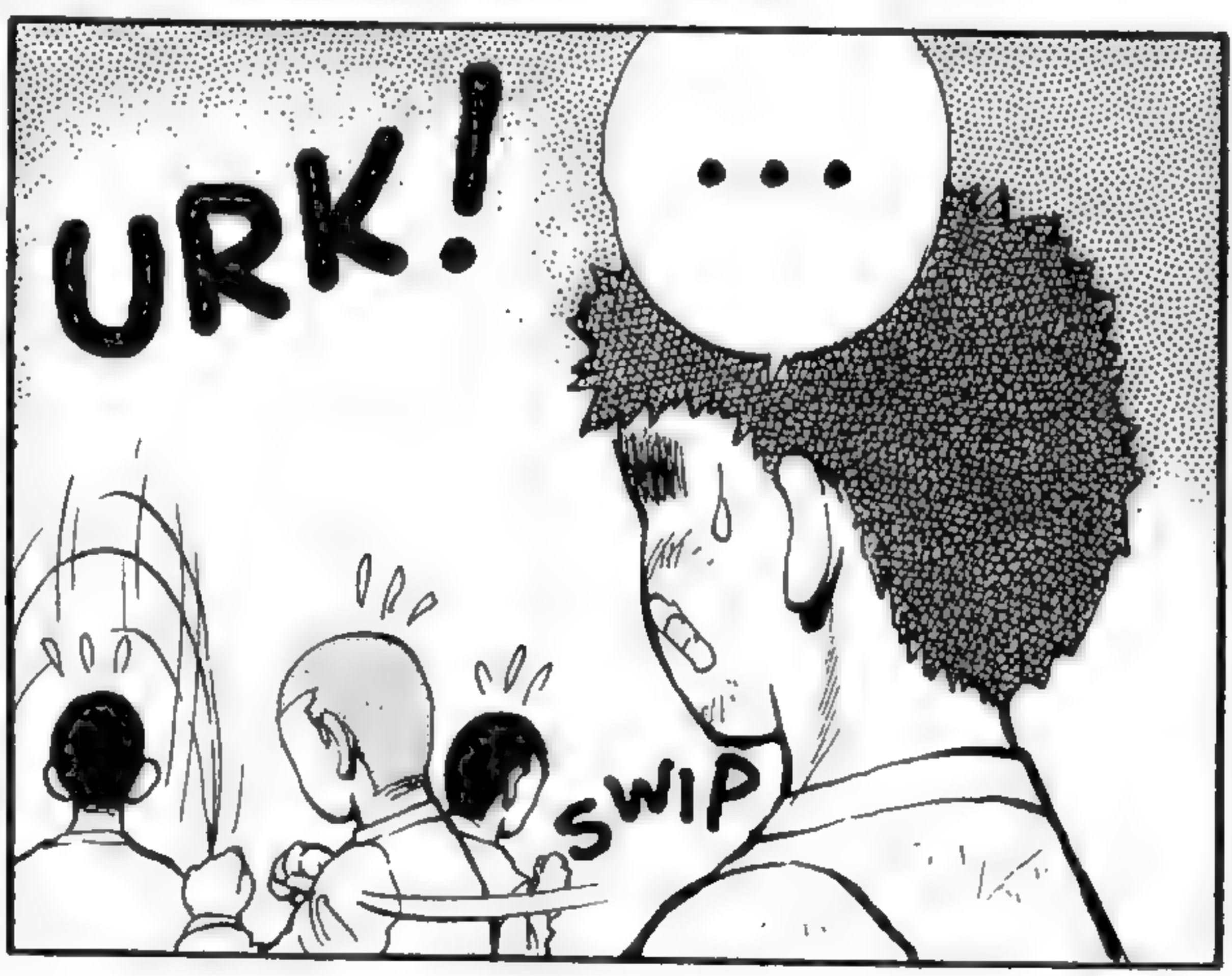
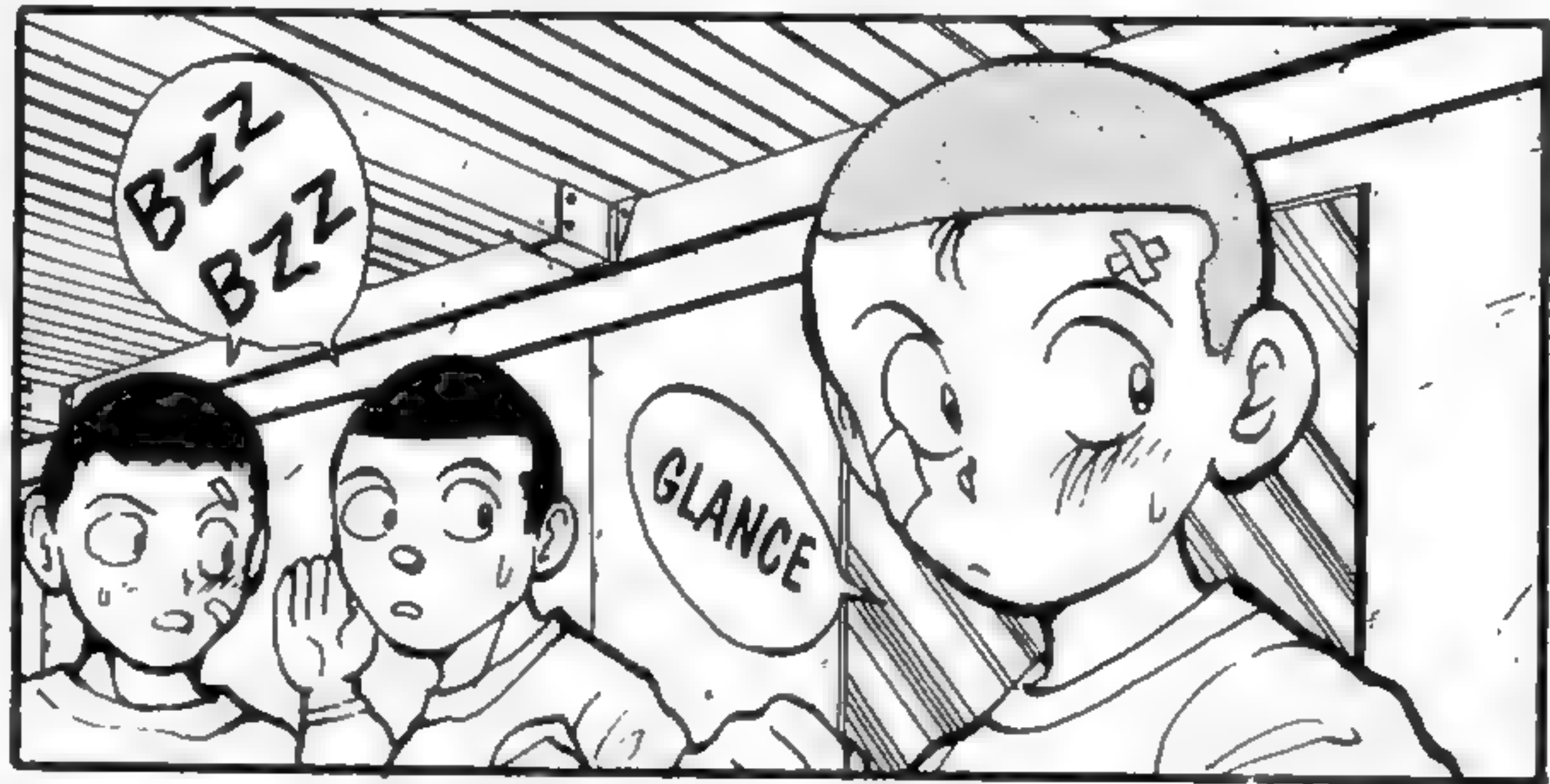
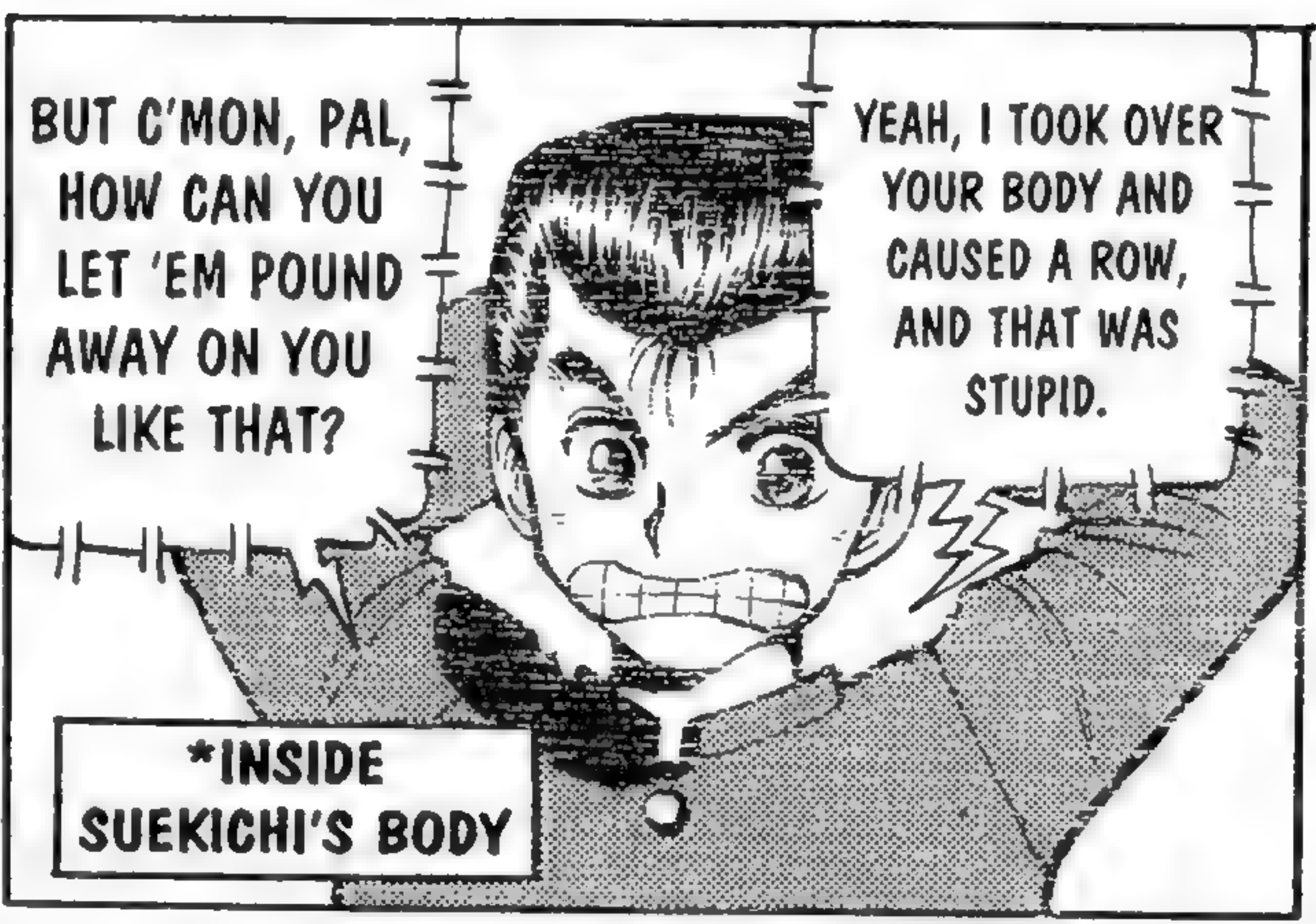




CHAPTER 16:  
FINDING THE GUTS FOR GLORY!!











**CHAPTER 16: FINDING THE GUTS FOR GLORY!!**





A P.E. TEACHER OR PERSONAL TRAINER IN THE MAKING, FOR SURE.







HEY!!



HUH?  
YOU THINK  
SO?

PRETTY GOOD  
RIGHT YOU  
GOT THERE.



GOT TO  
PRACTICE,  
PRACTICE,  
PRACTICE!!



STILL, HIS PASSION FOR  
BOXING SEEMS REAL...  
I BET WHEN HE GETS INTO  
THE RING AND GOES UP  
AGAINST A PROPER  
OPPONENT...

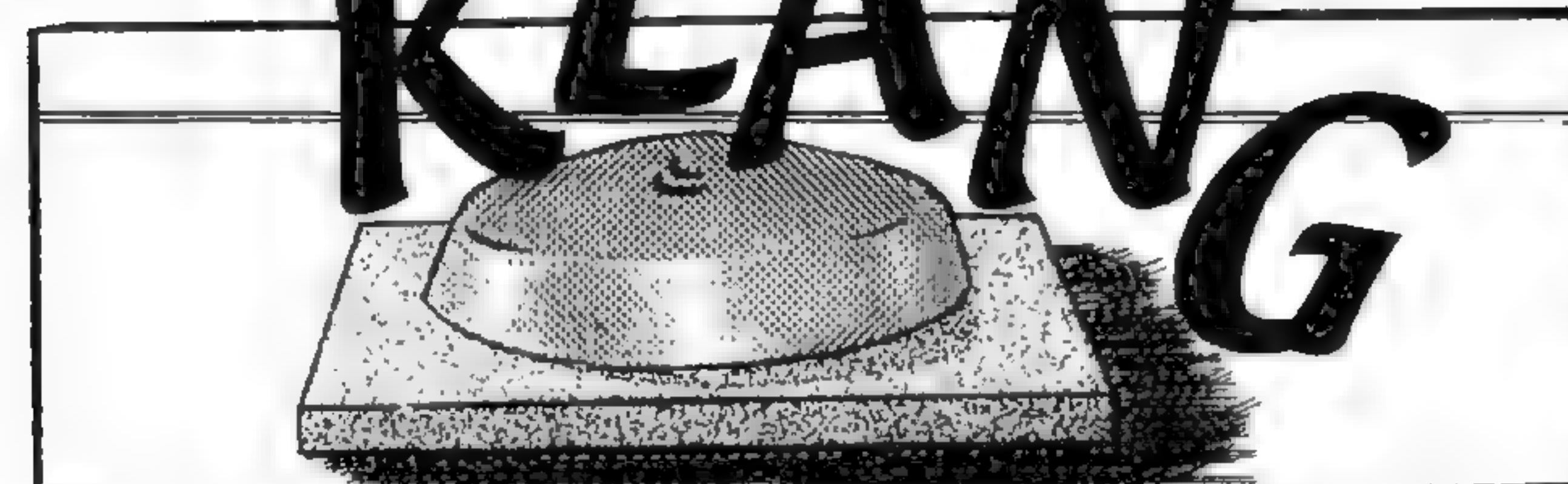
WITH A PUNCH LIKE  
THAT HE COULD K.O.  
JUST ABOUT ANYBODY,  
BUT HE NEVER SHOWS  
HIS STUFF IN  
A FIGHT.



...LET'S SPAR,  
GET YOU USED  
TO ACTUAL  
FIGHTING.

HEY  
MATSUO, WITH  
THE MATCH  
COMING  
UP...

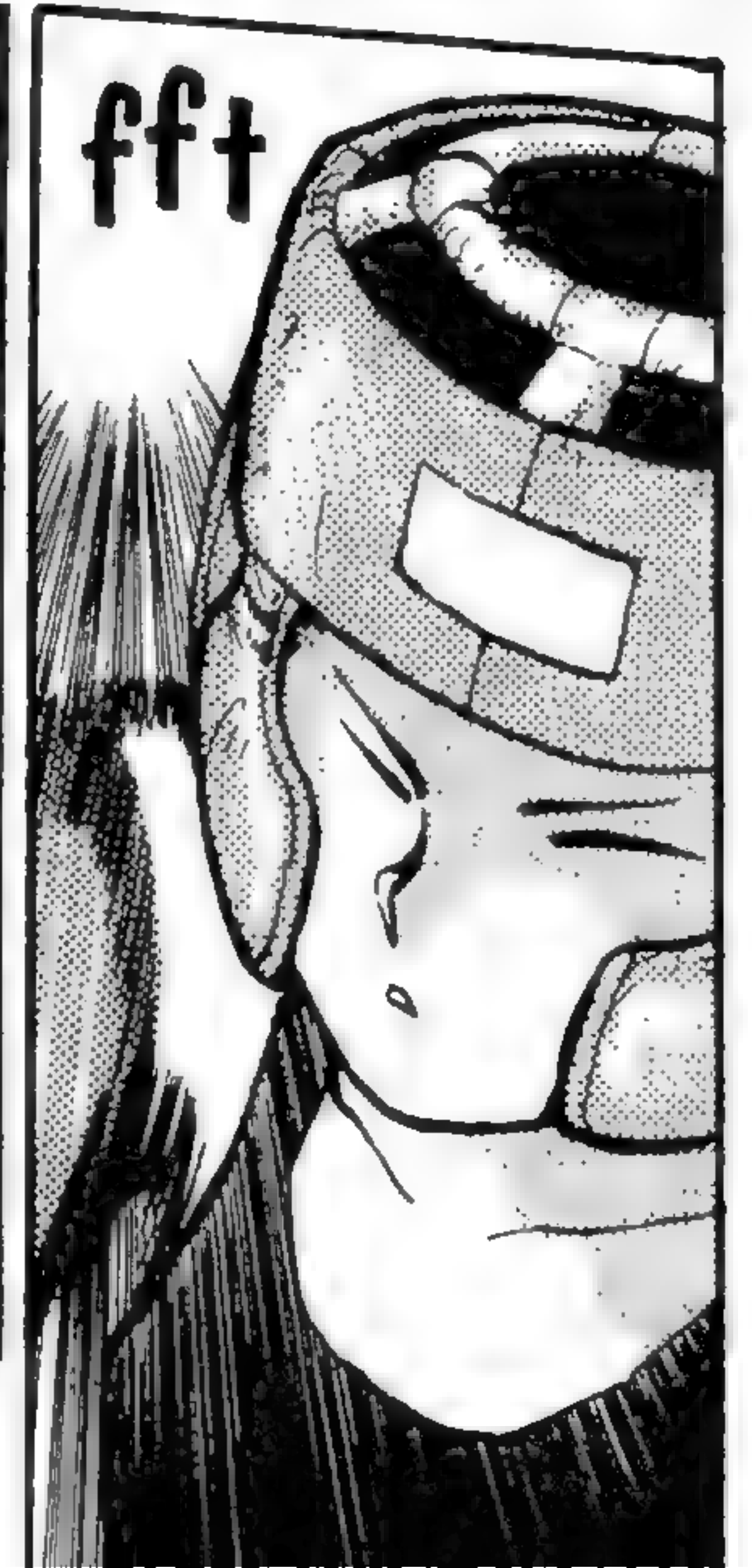
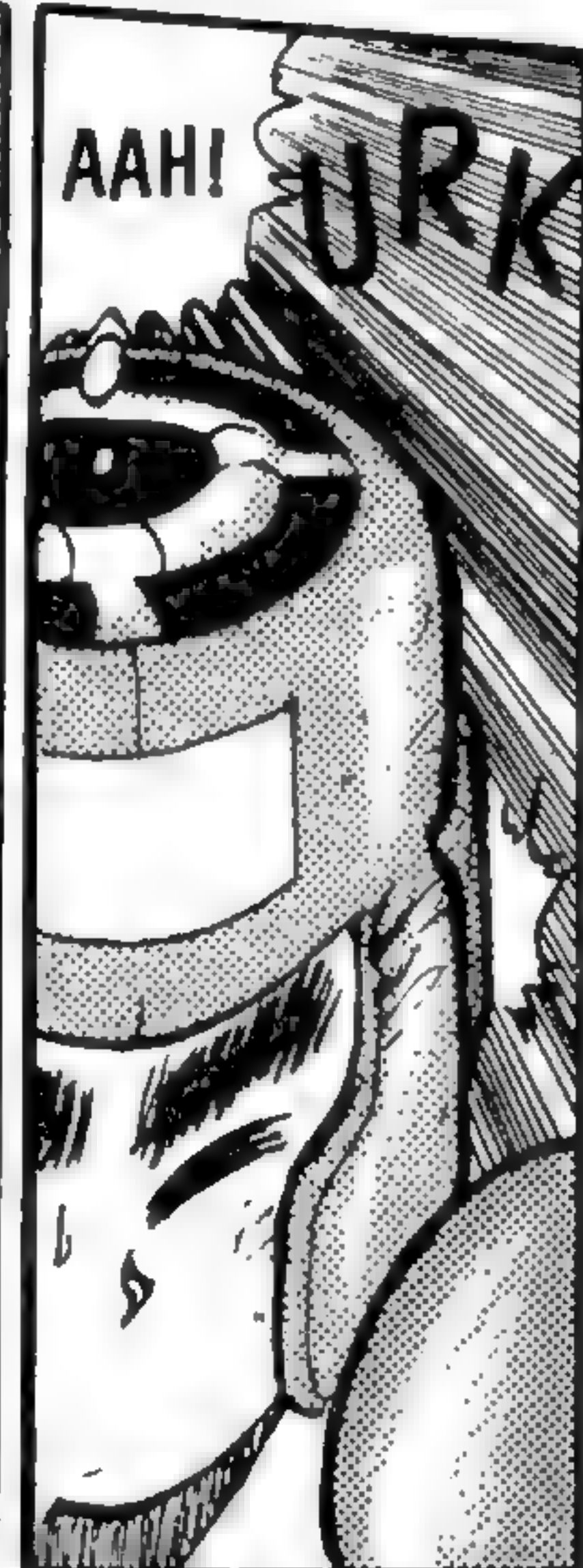
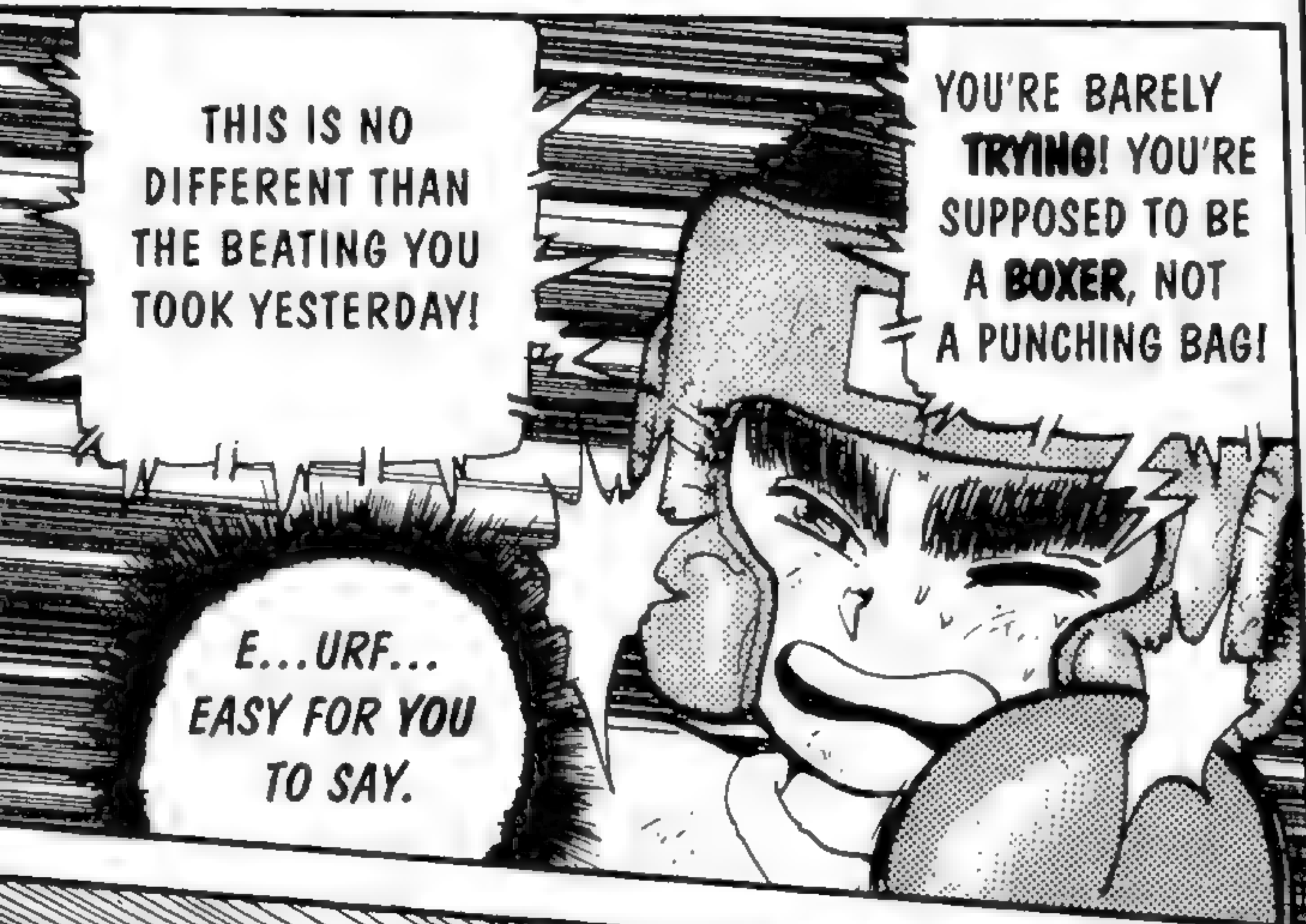
SURE...



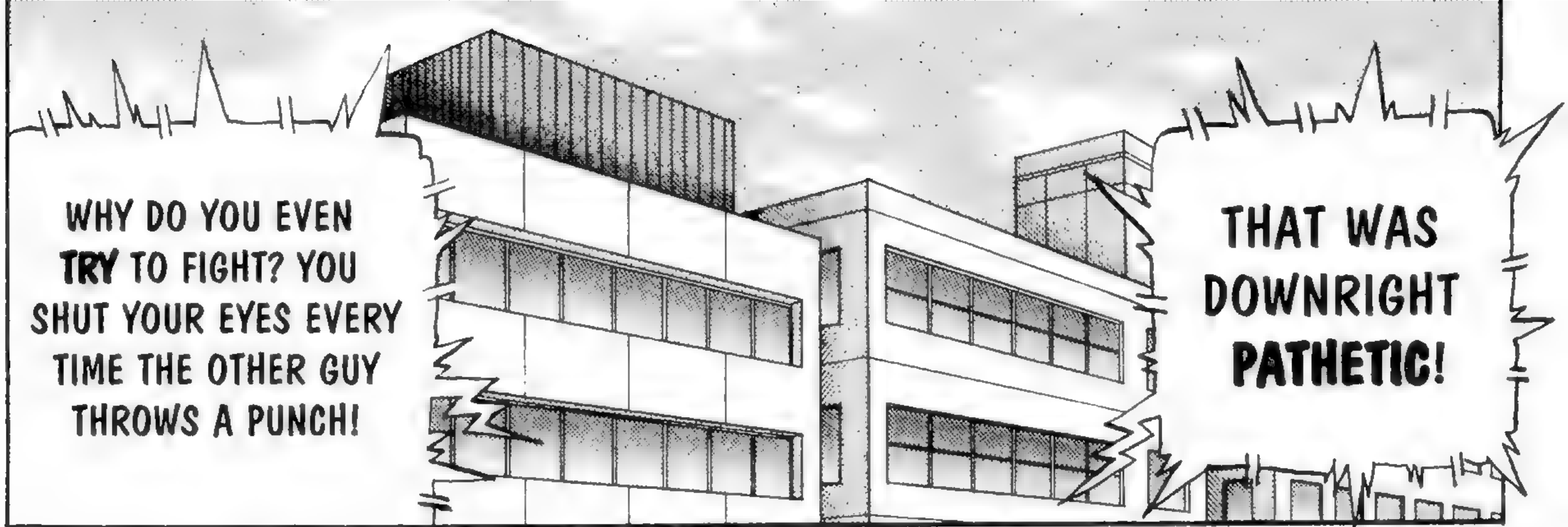
...AND SHOWS THE WORLD  
THE KILLER BEAST THAT  
LURKS WITHIN MATZO  
THE DUD.

...HE GETS THAT  
"EYE OF THE  
TIGER" THING  
GOING...









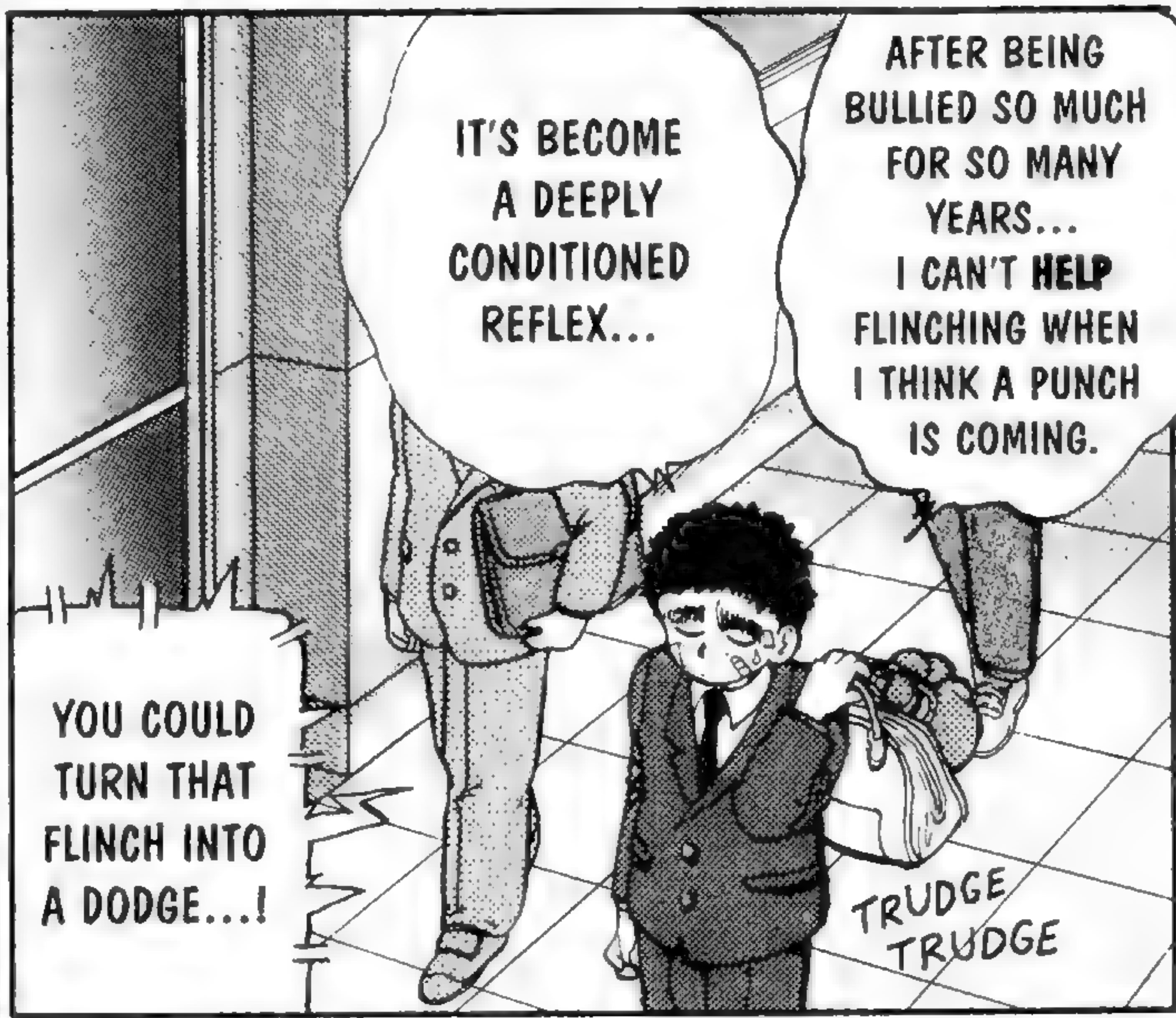
WHY DO YOU EVEN TRY TO FIGHT? YOU SHUT YOUR EYES EVERY TIME THE OTHER GUY THROWS A PUNCH!

THAT WAS DOWNRIGHT PATHETIC!



I MEAN, BOXING IS STILL FIGHTING, EVEN IF IT DOES HAVE RULES. BUT FOR **YOU** IT'S JUST ANOTHER WAY TO GET BULLIED!

OH, I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M EVEN TRYING. YOU TALK SO MUCH ABOUT BOXING, BUT YOU JUST SHUT DOWN IN THE RING.



IT'S BECOME A DEEPLY CONDITIONED REFLEX...

AFTER BEING BULLIED SO MUCH FOR SO MANY YEARS... I CAN'T **HELP** FLINCHING WHEN I THINK A PUNCH IS COMING.

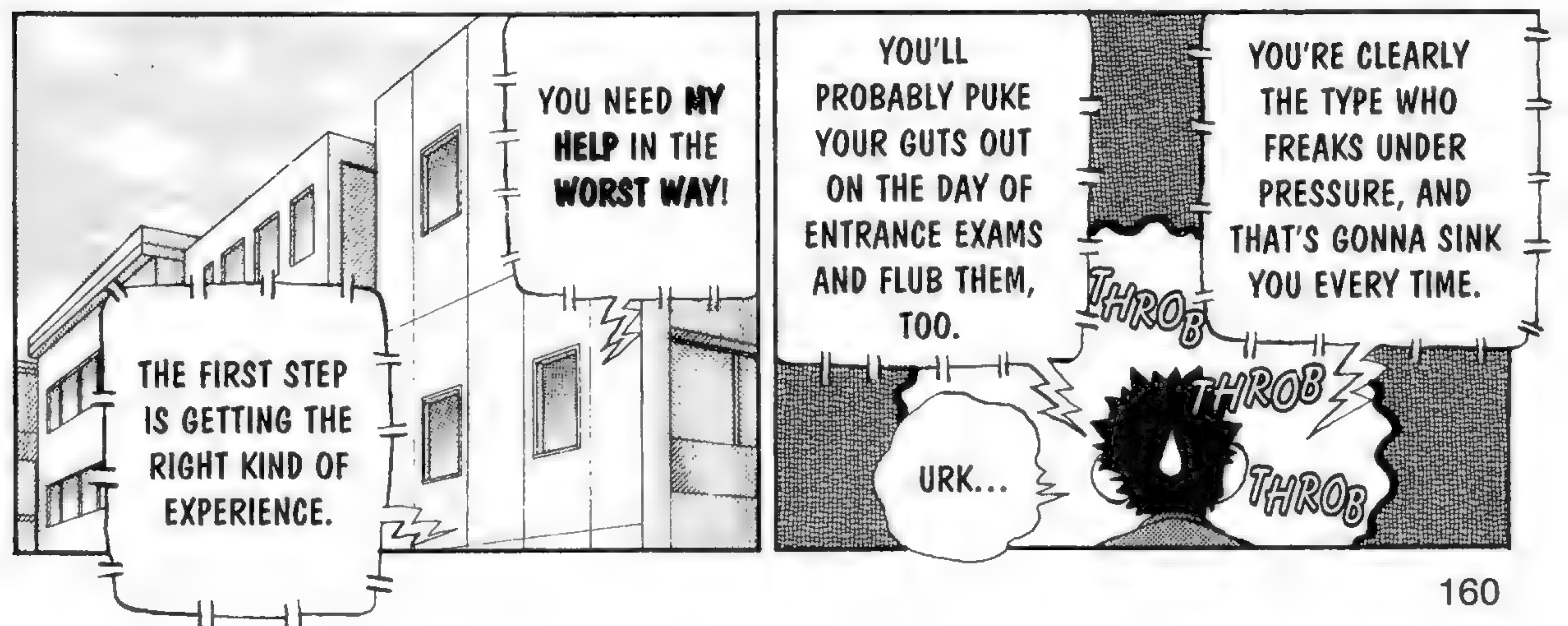
YOU COULD TURN THAT FLINCH INTO A DODGE...!

TRUDGE TRUDGE



...BUT WHAT YOU LACK IS **GUTS!**

YOU DO HAVE FOOTWORK AND POWER, BOTH OF WHICH ARE IMPORTANT...



YOU NEED **MY** **HELP** IN THE **WORST** WAY!

THE FIRST STEP IS GETTING THE RIGHT KIND OF EXPERIENCE.

YOU'LL PROBABLY PUKE YOUR GUTS OUT ON THE DAY OF ENTRANCE EXAMS AND FLUB THEM, TOO.

YOU'RE CLEARLY THE TYPE WHO FREAKS UNDER PRESSURE, AND THAT'S GONNA SINK YOU EVERY TIME.

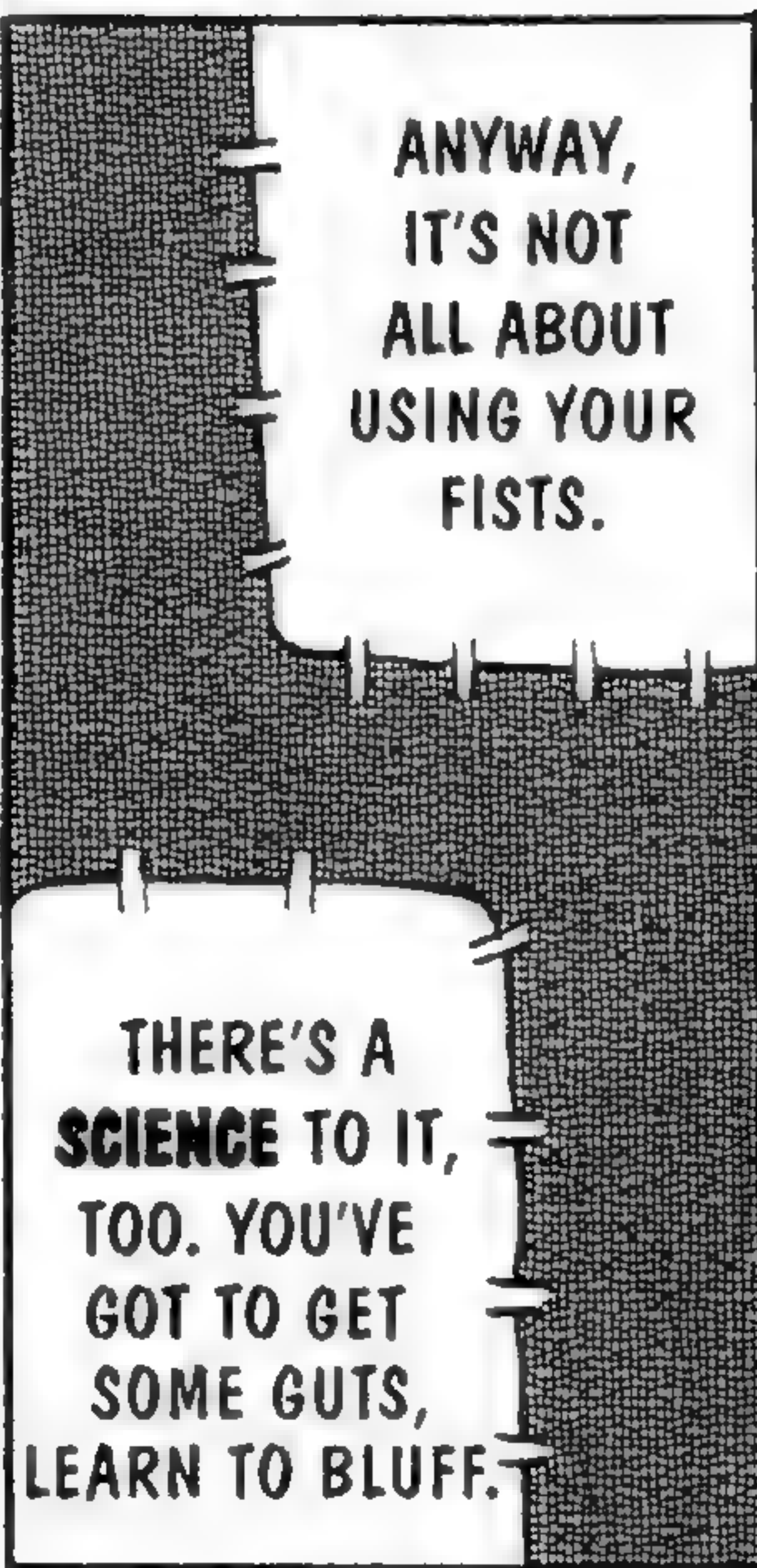
URK...

THROB THROB THROB





CHECK THIS GUY.  
A PUNK WANNABE,  
TOO COOL FOR  
SCHOOL.



ANYWAY,  
IT'S NOT  
ALL ABOUT  
USING YOUR  
FISTS.

THERE'S A  
SCIENCE TO IT,  
TOO. YOU'VE  
GOT TO GET  
SOME GUTS,  
LEARN TO BLUFF.



WHAT'S  
WRONG WITH  
THAT?

MEANING  
YOUR KIND  
OF FIGHT  
- A STREET  
BRAWL!!



...HOW 'BOUT  
AN APOLOGY?!

HEY,  
PAL...

YANK



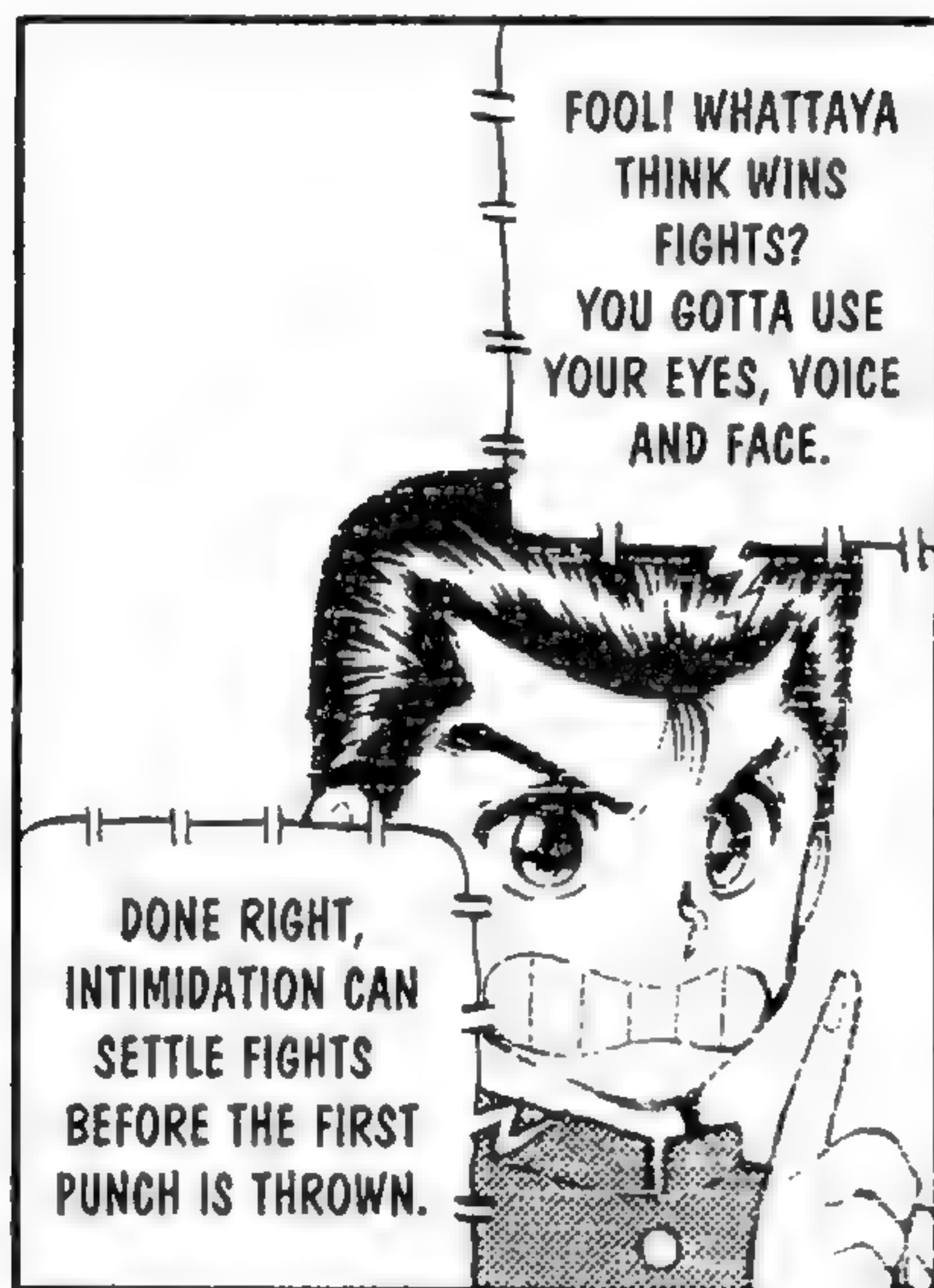
BUMP

OW!



SURE! I'M SORRY  
I DIDN'T KNOCK  
YOU DOWN AND  
KICK THE CRAP  
OUT OF YOU!!





FOOL! WHATTAYA  
THINK WINS  
FIGHTS?  
YOU GOTTA USE  
YOUR EYES, VOICE  
AND FACE.

DONE RIGHT,  
INTIMIDATION CAN  
SETTLE FIGHTS  
BEFORE THE FIRST  
PUNCH IS THROWN.



I...  
I CAN'T  
DO THAT!

THAT'S JUST  
BRUTE  
INTIMIDATION.

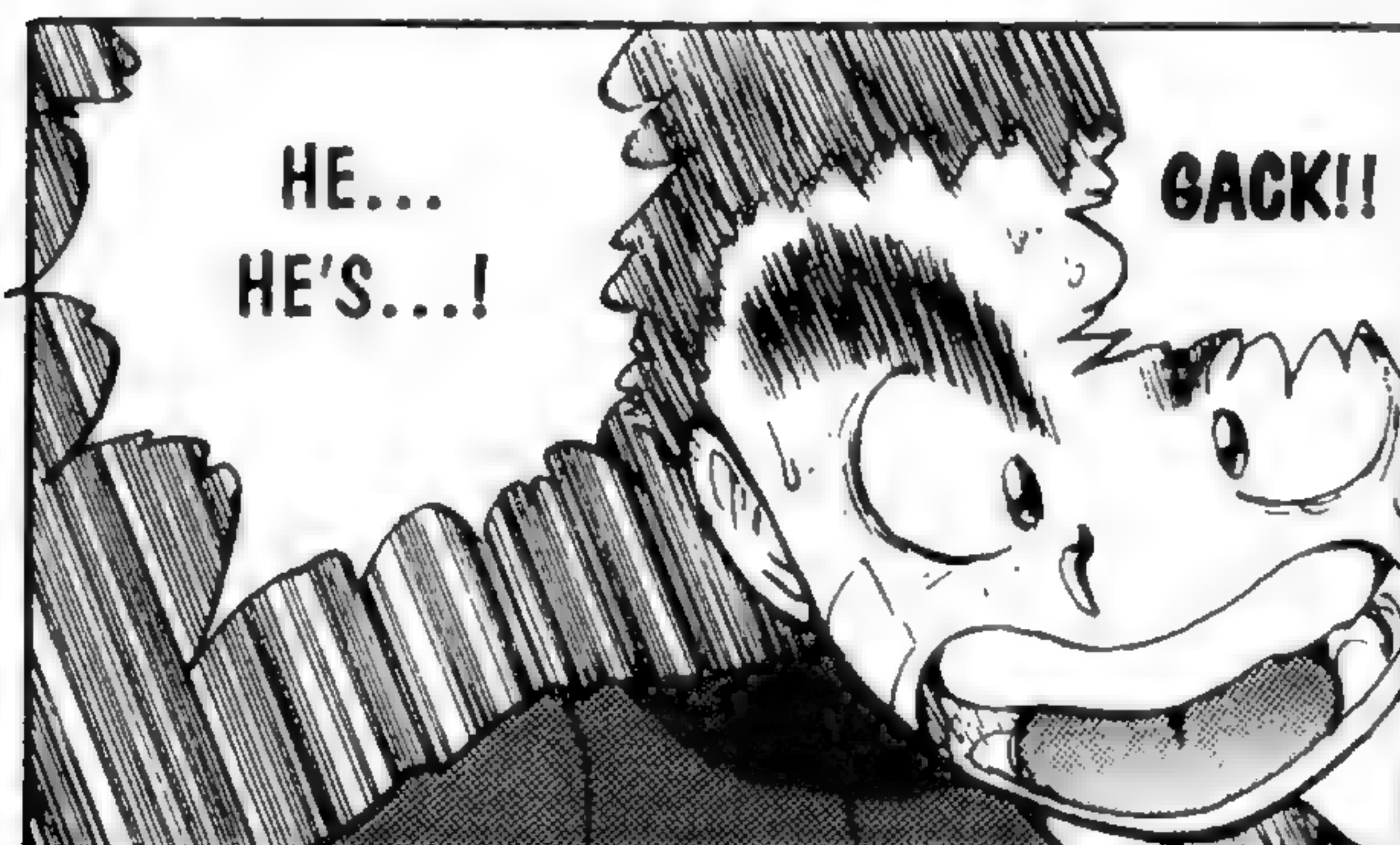
SEE?  
IT'S EASY!  
NOW YOU  
TRY IT!



...NEVER  
MIND!!

NUH...

**VROOSH**



HE...  
HE'S...!

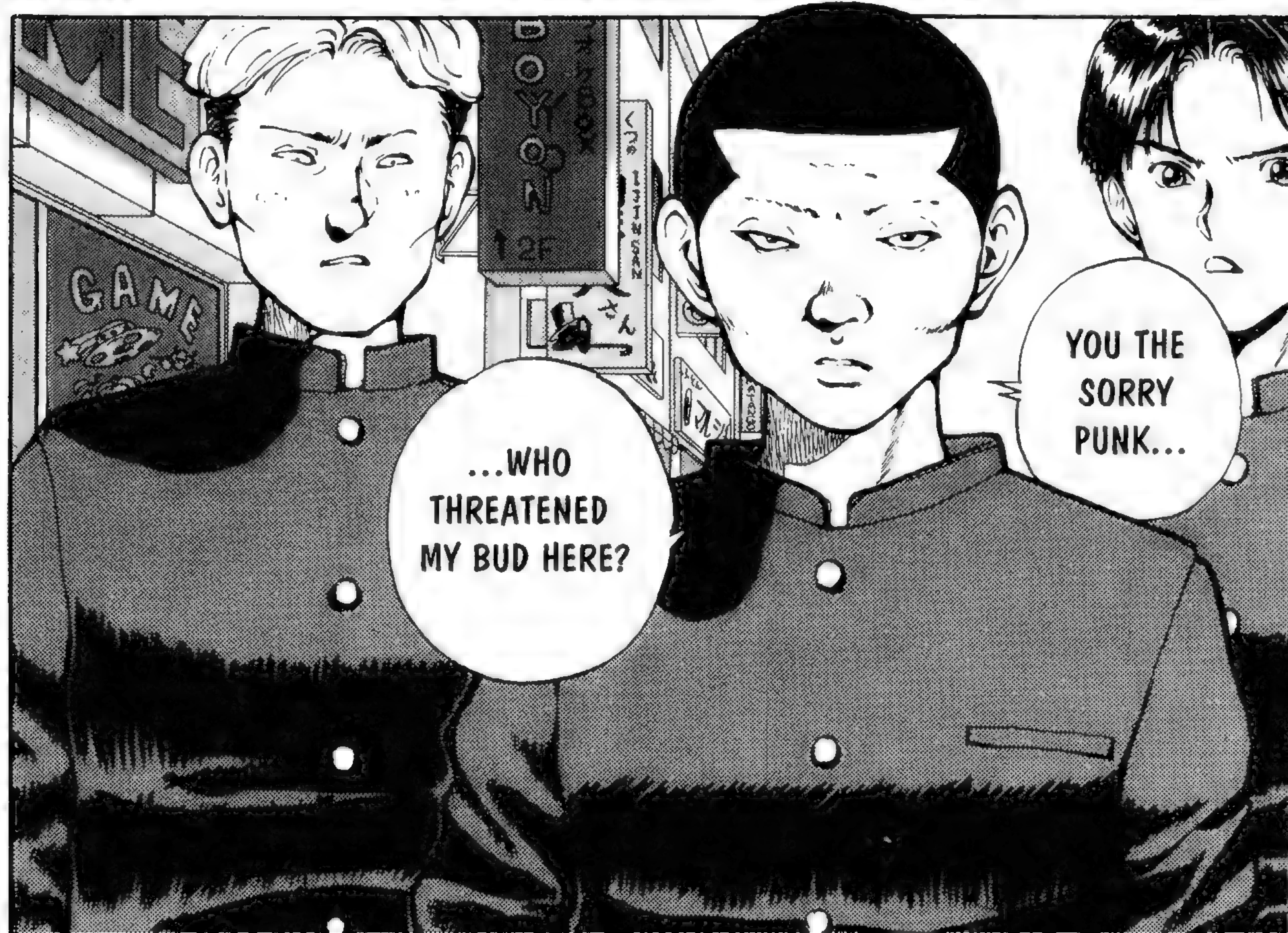
**GACK!!**



THAT'S  
THE GUY,  
SAMEJIMA.

THERE  
HE IS.

!



...WHO  
THREATENED  
MY BUD HERE?

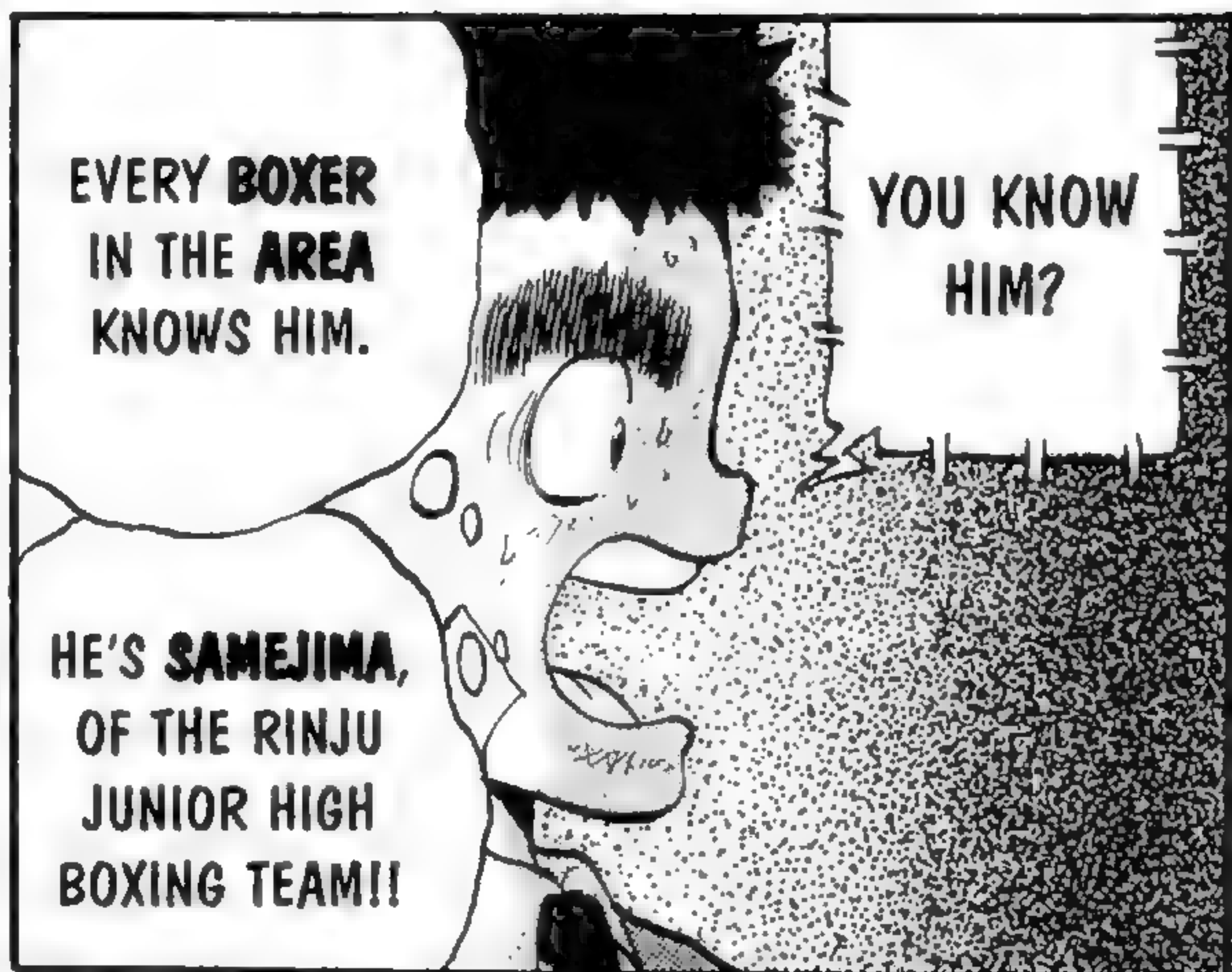
YOU THE  
SORRY  
PUNK...





HE MAKES  
TACHIKAWA  
LOOK LIKE  
MOTHER TERESA.

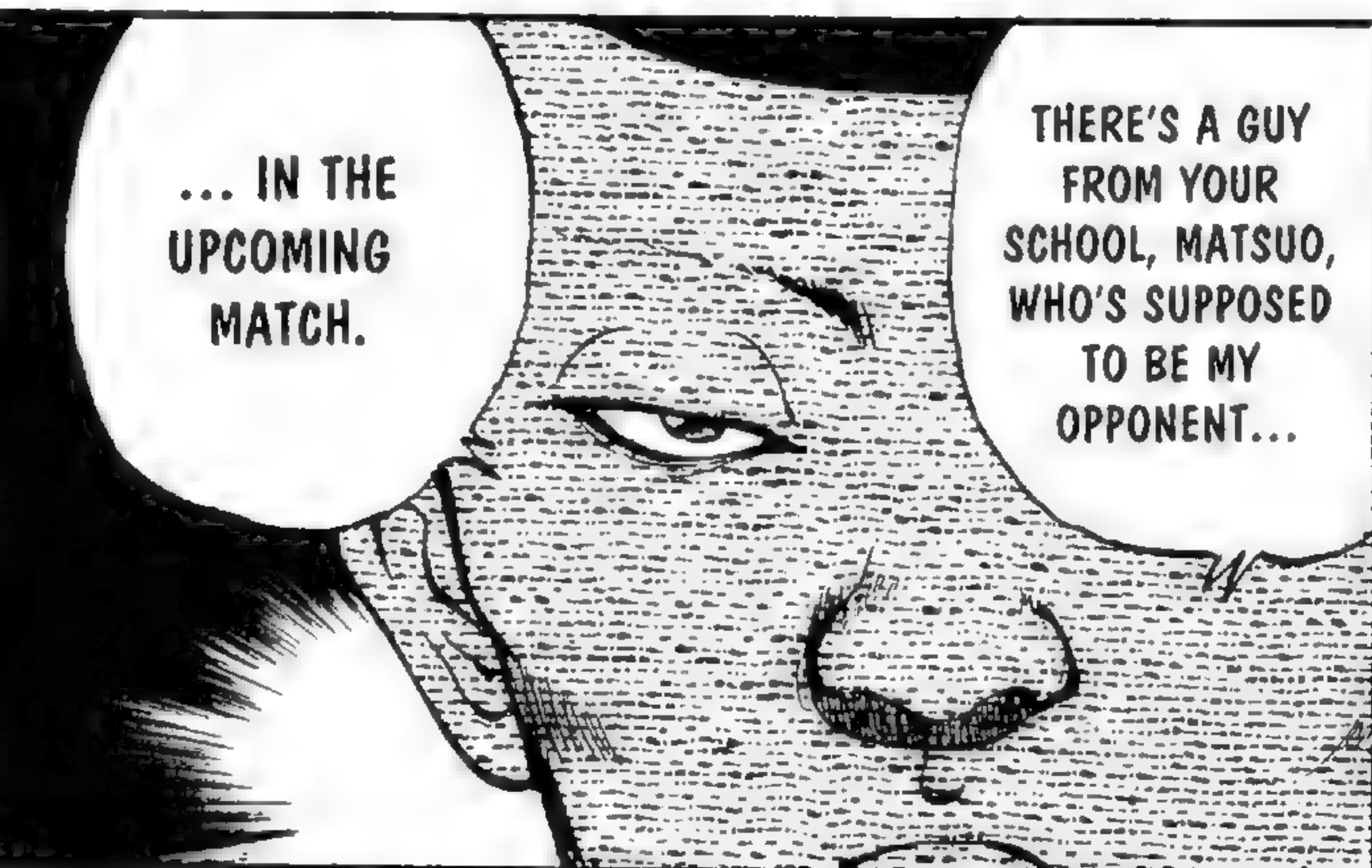
IT'S SAID HE'S  
DRAGGED GUYS  
HE DIDN'T LIKE  
TO THE GYM AND  
PUT OUT THEIR EYE,  
OR BROKEN BOTH  
THEIR ARMS,  
THINGS LIKE THAT...



EVERY BOXER  
IN THE AREA  
KNOWS HIM.

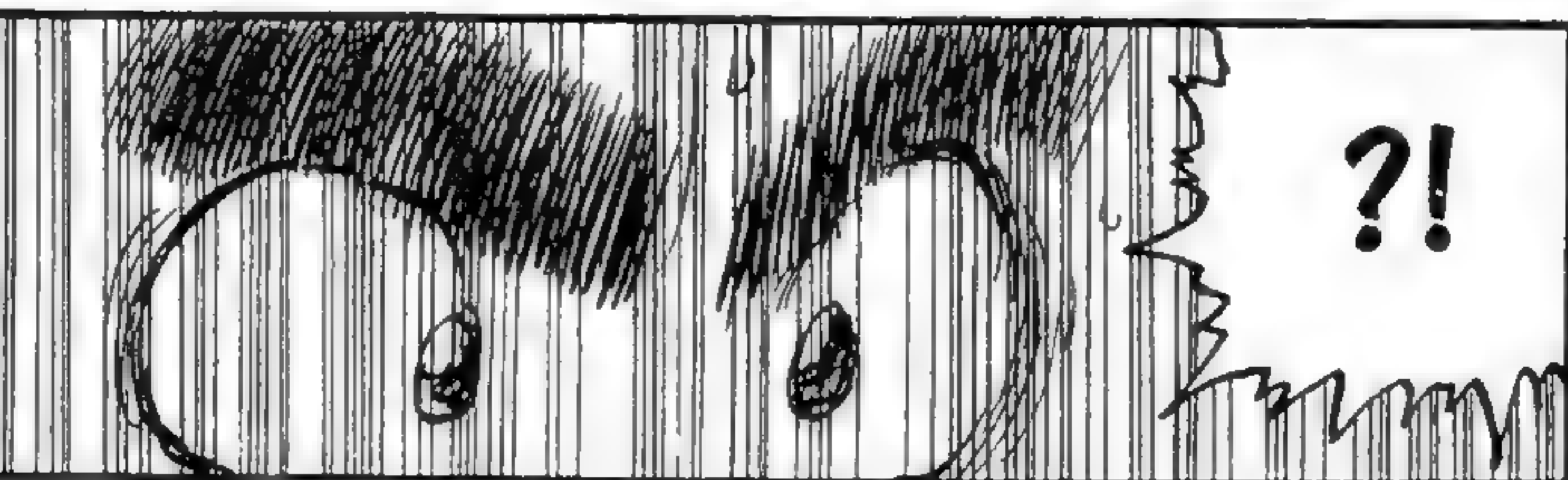
YOU KNOW  
HIM?

HE'S **SAMEJIMA**,  
OF THE RINJU  
JUNIOR HIGH  
BOXING TEAM!!



... IN THE  
UPCOMING  
MATCH.

THERE'S A GUY  
FROM YOUR  
SCHOOL, MATSUO,  
WHO'S SUPPOSED  
TO BE MY  
OPPONENT...



?!



...YOU ON THE  
IMAWANO  
JUNIOR HIGH  
BOXING TEAM?

HEY,  
PUNK...

ER...  
YEAH.

HEE HEE,  
HE'S  
SWEATIN'.



HEY, SUEKICHI!  
HEY!! ANYONE  
HOME...?

OH BROTHER,  
HE'S FAINTED  
DEAD AWAY.



JUST  
MY LUCK...

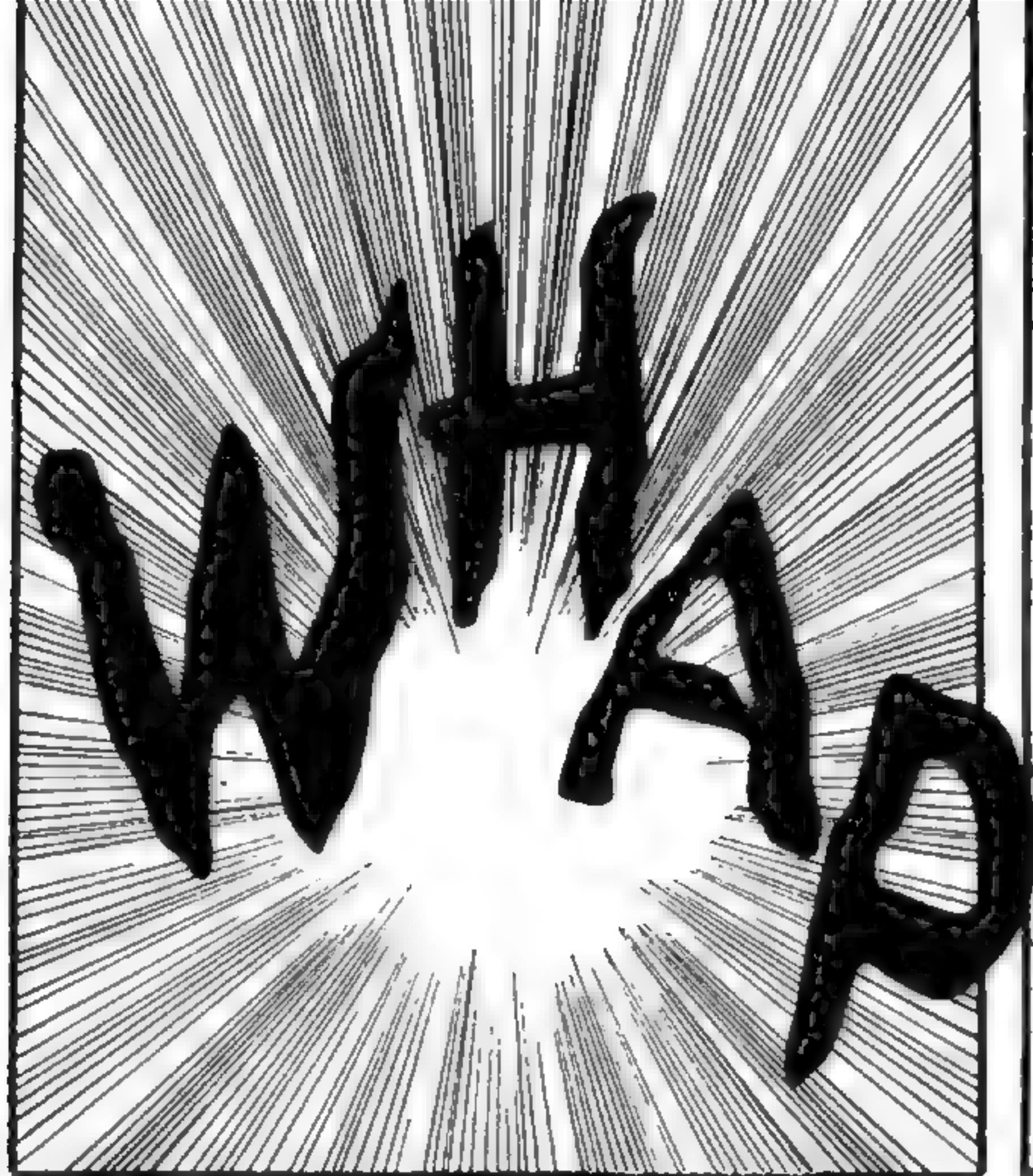
**BLANK  
OUT**



OH,  
MAN...

YOU TELL HIM  
HE WON'T BE  
LEAVING THE RING  
IN ONE PIECE.





I DUNNO IF YOU'RE SAMEJIMA OR SASQUATCH...

...BUT A BABOON-FACED **MORON** LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T BE COPPING SUCH A TOUGH-ASS ATTITUDE.



I'M MATSUO, PAL.



AND I'LL REARRANGE THAT SCRUNCHED UP NOSE FOR YOU.

WHAT'S YOUR HURRY ANYWAY? WE'LL MEET IN THE RING SOON ENOUGH.



NO ONE INSULTS SAMEJIMA'S FACE...!

...!!



HAH! THAT'LL BE THE DAY!!



AND  
THE DAY  
OF THE  
MATCH!

A black and white illustration of a large, modern stadium building with a flat roof and a long, dark window. The building is surrounded by a paved area and a low wall. In the background, there are other buildings and a large, striped structure.

SAID HE NEEDED TO BE ALONE.

HE'S IN THE LOCKER ROOM.

WHERE'S MATSUO?

HE'S GONNA  
**MURDER ME!!**

LOCKER  
ROOM

WHAT  
HAVE YOU  
**DONE?!**

YAAH!

YANK

NUH-UH!  
YOU'RE NOT  
WIMPING OUT  
ON ME!

I'M GETTING  
OUTTA HERE!

URRG

HEY,  
WHAT'RE YOU  
DOING?!







THIS IS YOUR **SHOT**,  
MATSUO! YOUR CHANCE  
TO SHOW YOUR STUFF!  
IT DOESN'T MATTER **WHO**  
YOUR OPPONENT IS!

YOU'RE ABOUT TO  
GET YOUR PRECIOUS  
MATCH! ISN'T THAT  
WHAT YOU ALWAYS  
WANTED?!



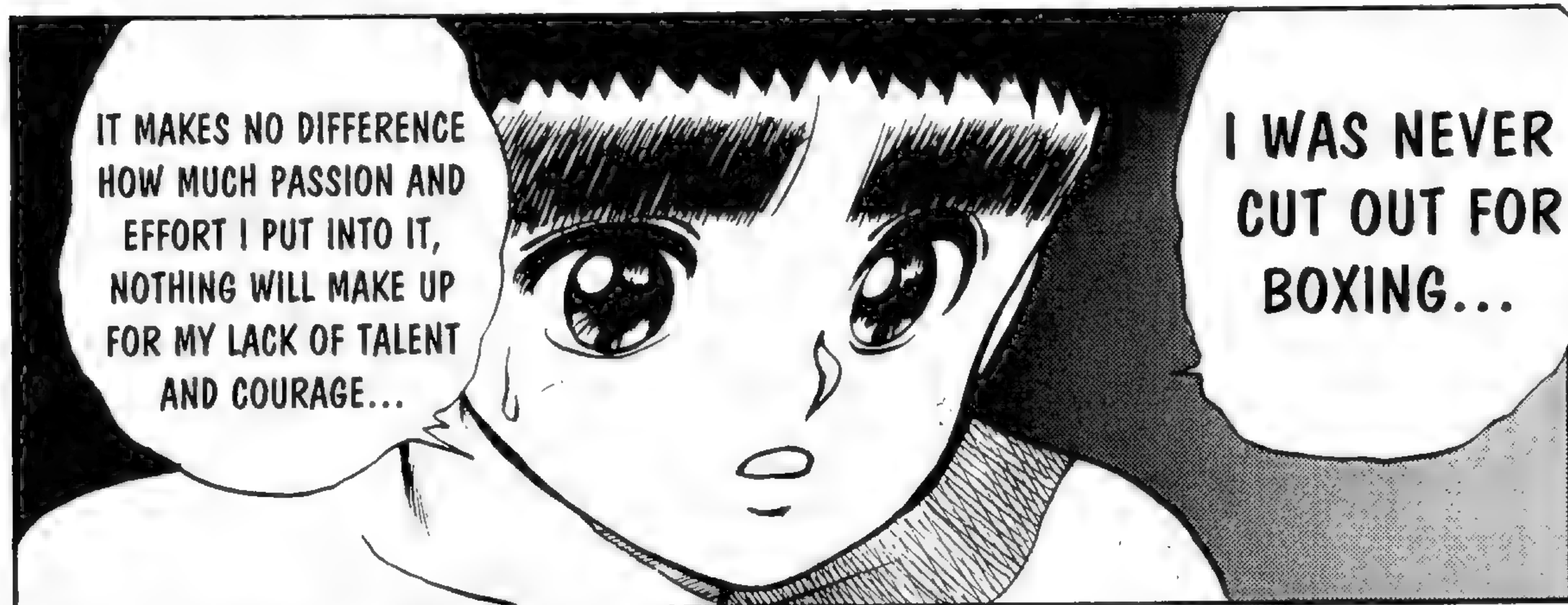
I DON'T HAVE TO!  
HE CLEARLY HAS  
MORE SKILL,  
POWER, AND  
GUTS!

I HAVE  
ABSOLUTELY  
NO CHANCE!!



HOW DO YOU  
KNOW? YOU'VE  
NEVER **FOUGHT**  
HIM!

YES IT **DOES**!  
SAMEJIMA WILL  
TAKE ME  
APART!



IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE  
HOW MUCH PASSION AND  
EFFORT I PUT INTO IT,  
NOTHING WILL MAKE UP  
FOR MY LACK OF TALENT  
AND COURAGE...

I WAS NEVER  
CUT OUT FOR  
BOXING...



...I CAN'T  
...HELP IT.

...  
I...



...

YOU'D RATHER  
QUIT THAN  
EVEN TRY TO  
WIN ONE  
FIGHT?

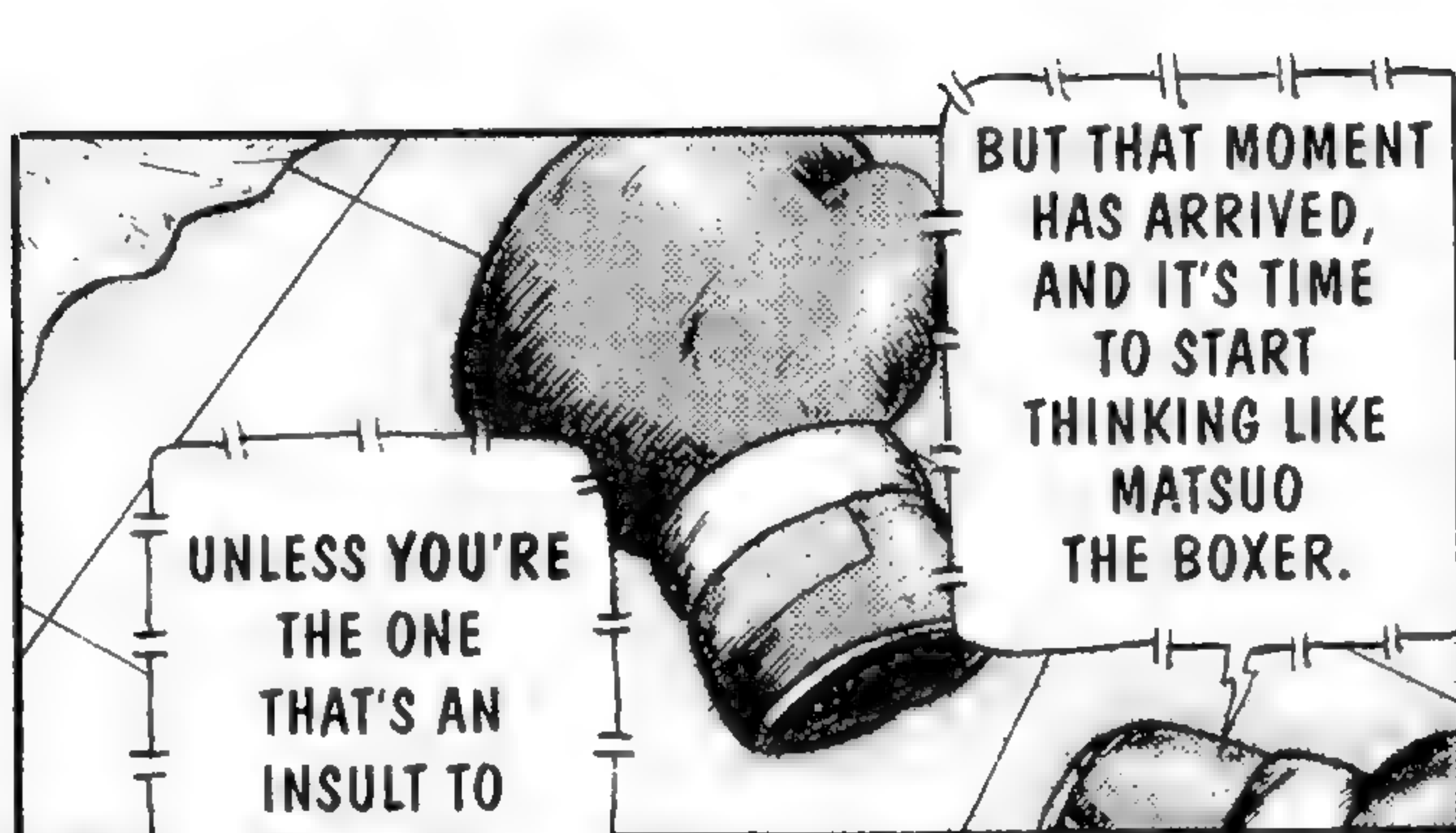
...





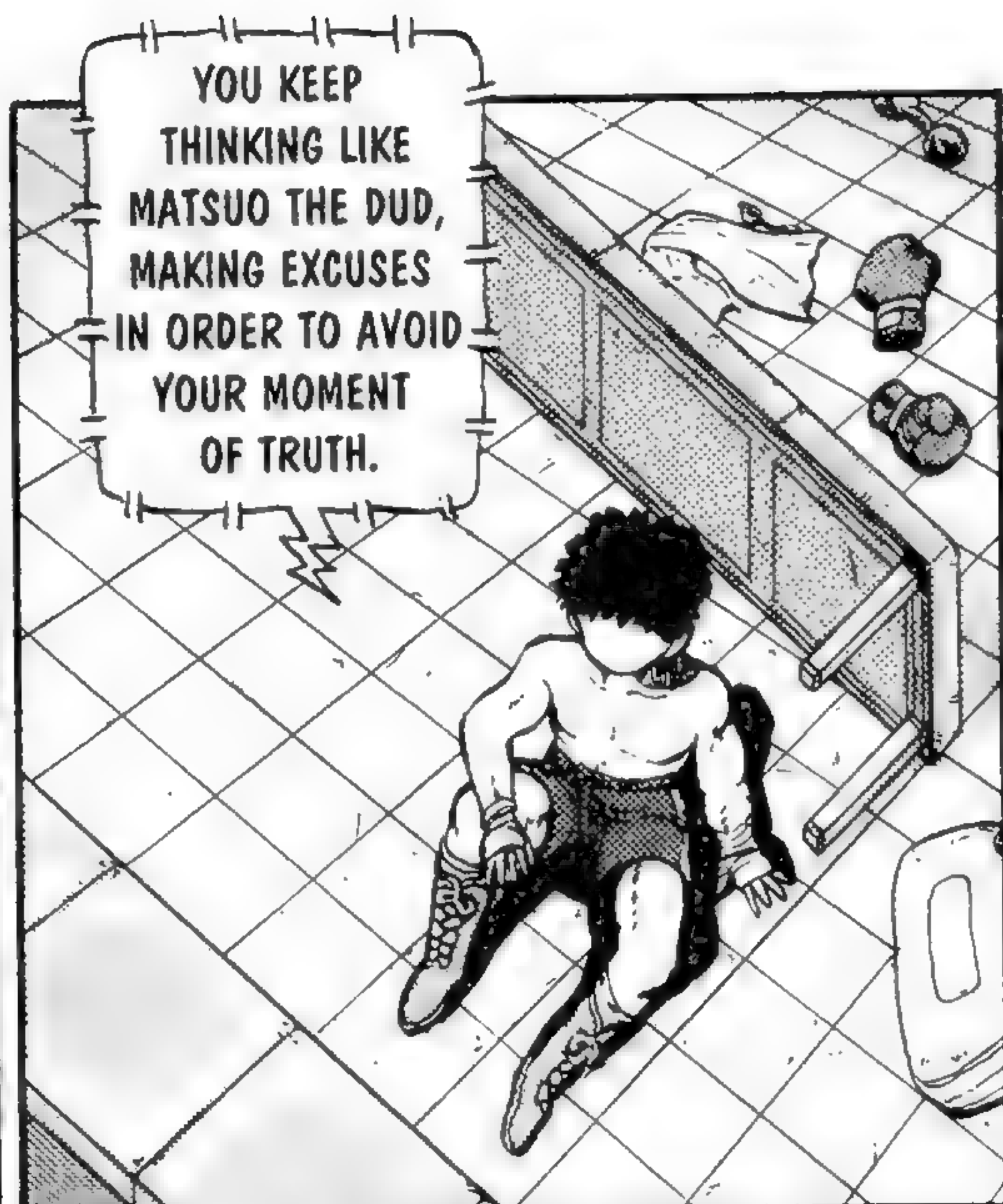




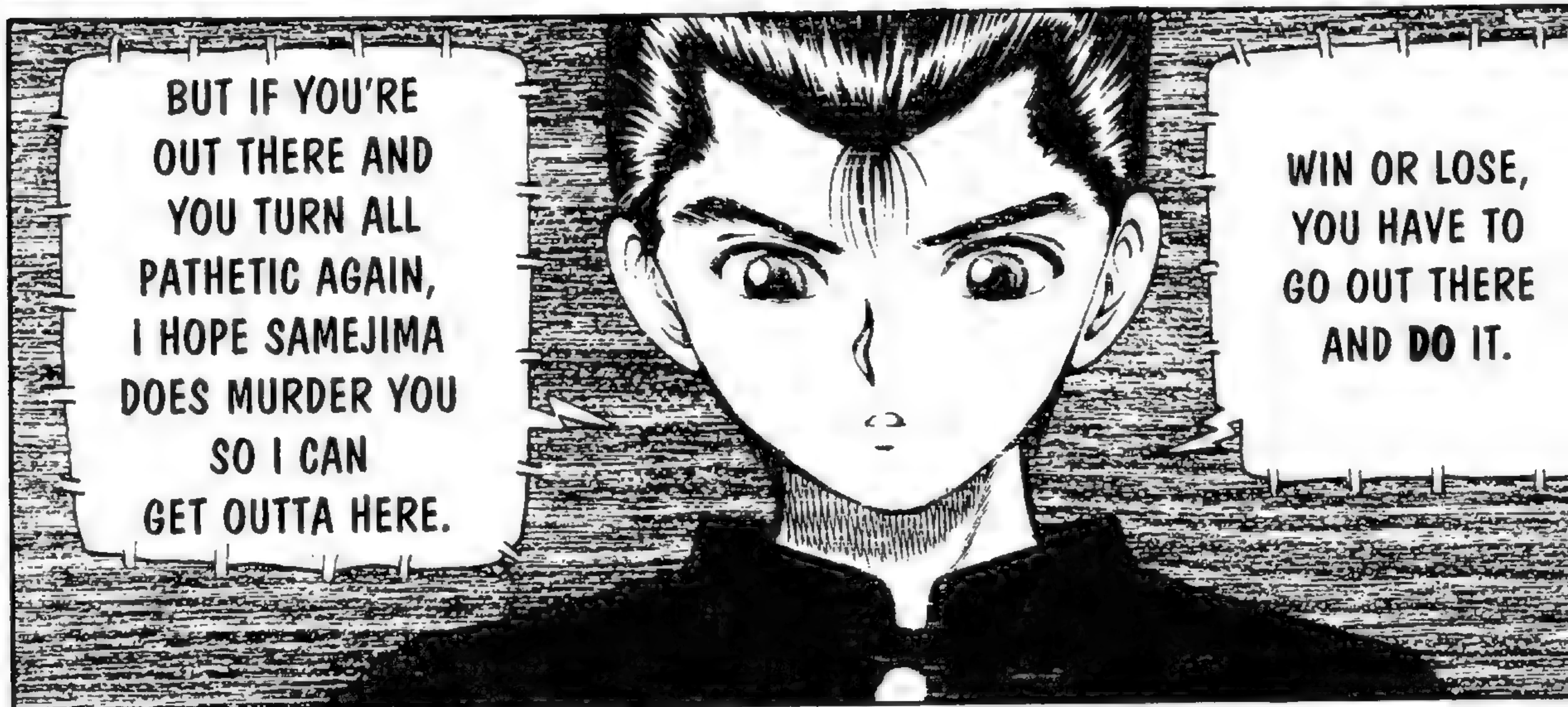


UNLESS YOU'RE  
THE ONE  
THAT'S AN  
INSULT TO  
THE SPORT.

BUT THAT MOMENT  
HAS ARRIVED,  
AND IT'S TIME  
TO START  
THINKING LIKE  
MATSUO  
THE BOXER.



YOU KEEP  
THINKING LIKE  
MATSUO THE DUD,  
MAKING EXCUSES  
IN ORDER TO AVOID  
YOUR MOMENT  
OF TRUTH.

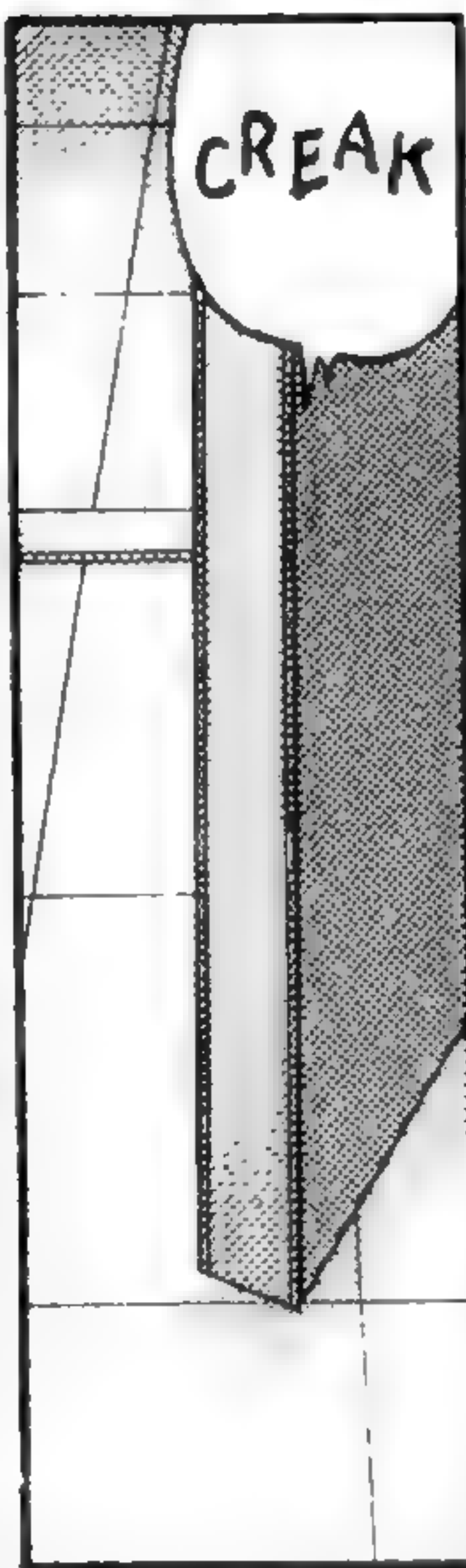


BUT IF YOU'RE  
OUT THERE AND  
YOU TURN ALL  
PATHETIC AGAIN,  
I HOPE SAMEJIMA  
DOES MURDER YOU  
SO I CAN  
GET OUTTA HERE.

WIN OR LOSE,  
YOU HAVE TO  
GO OUT THERE  
AND DO IT.



?!



CREAK



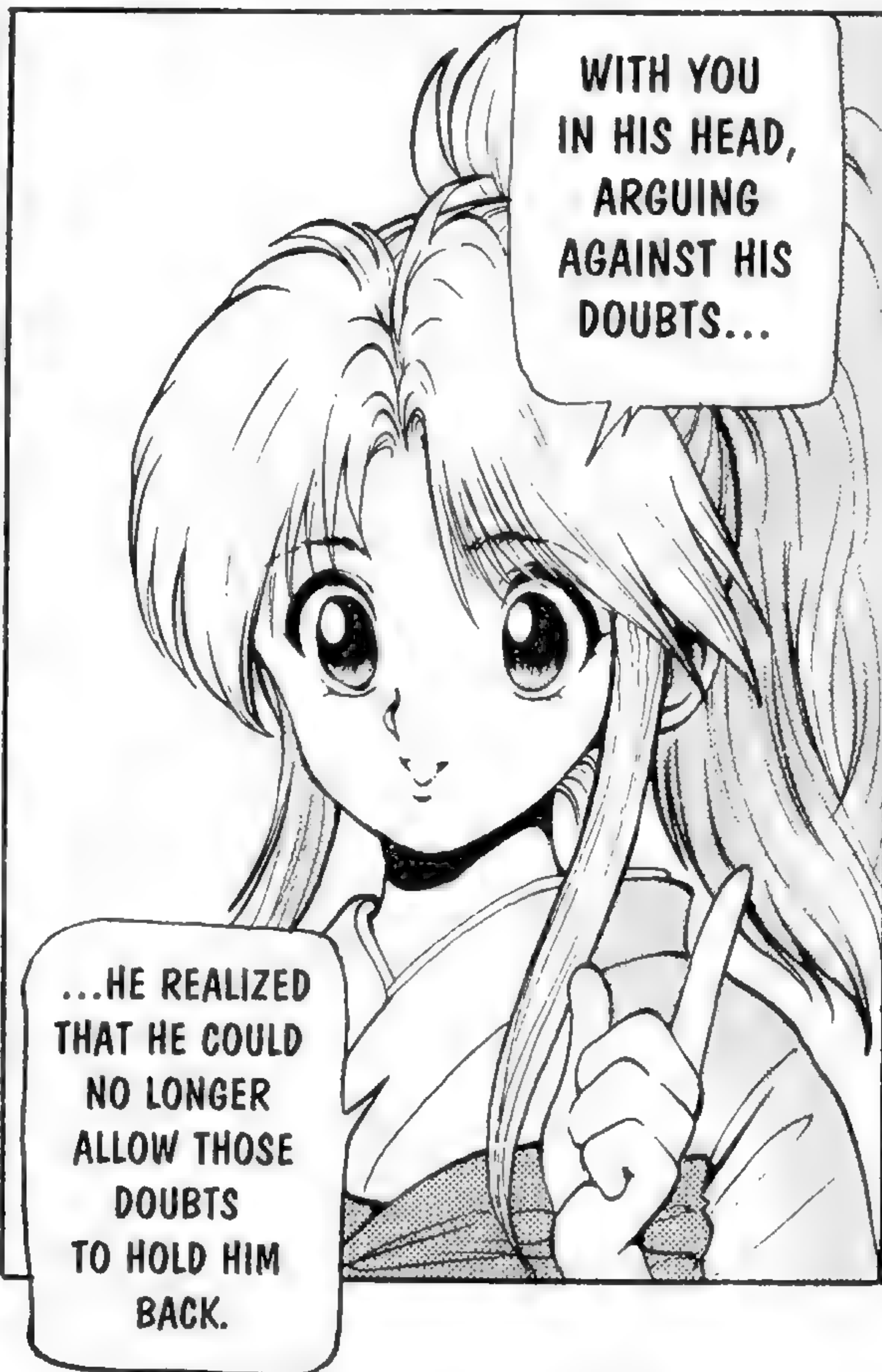
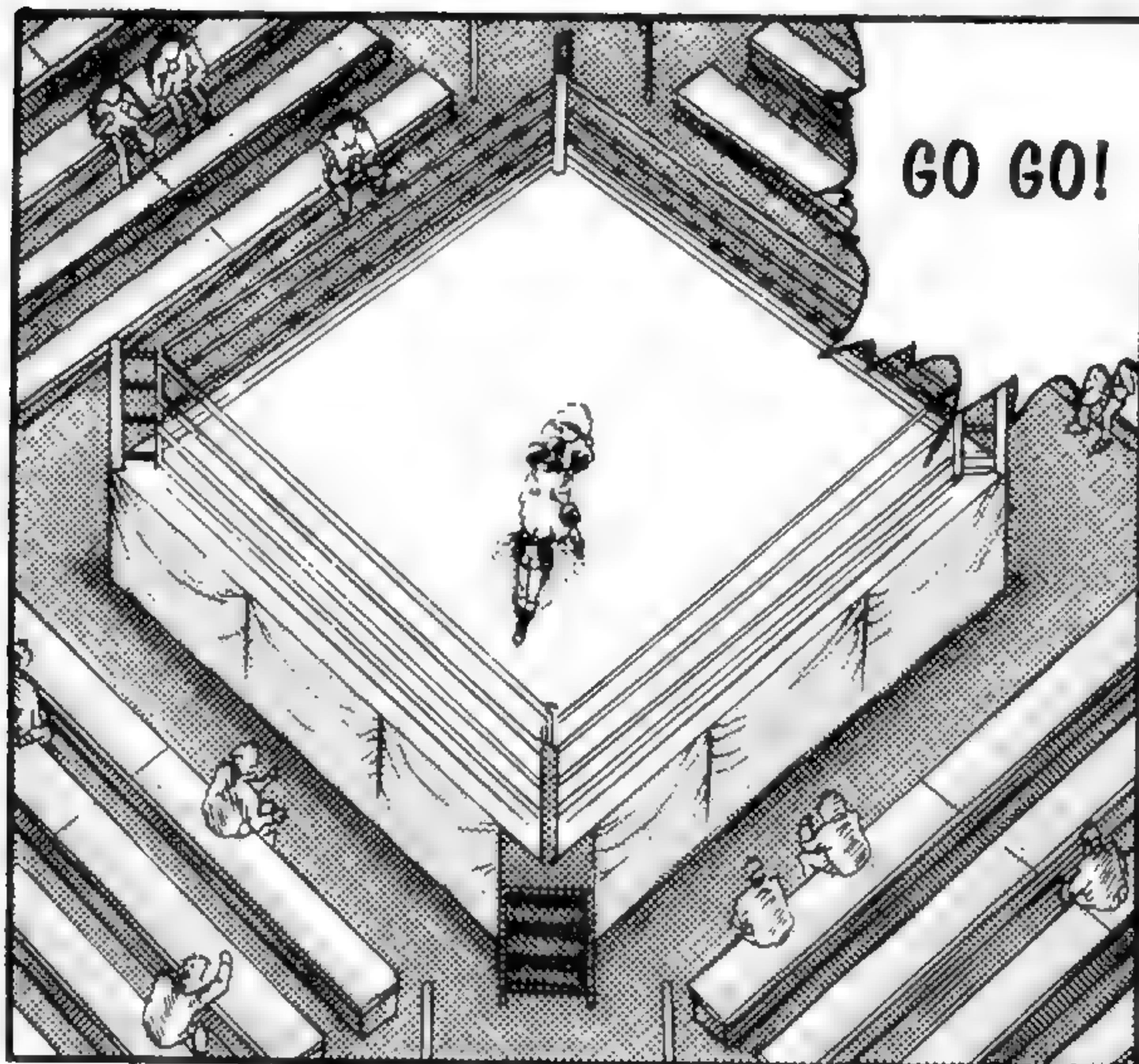
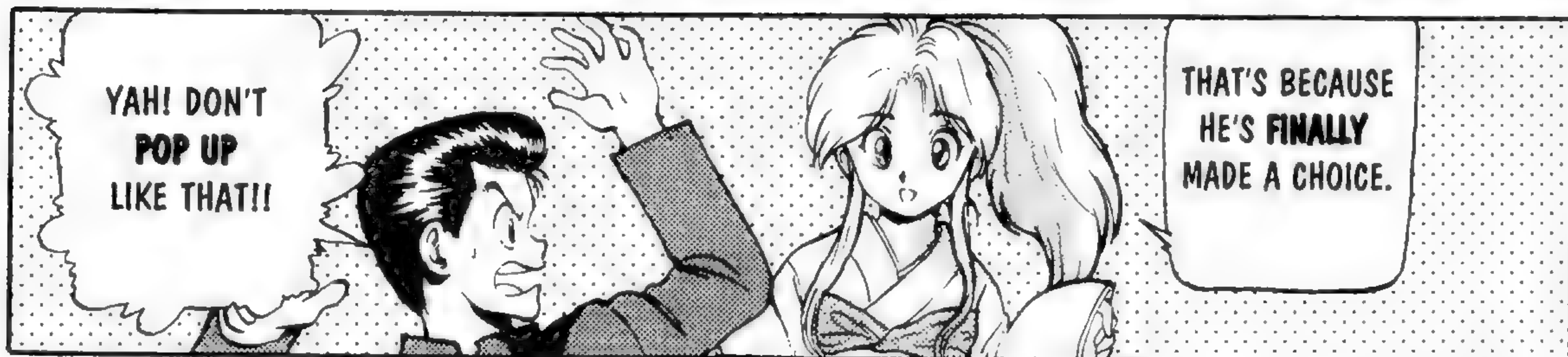
HEY,  
MATSUO!

IT'S  
TIME!



...









THEY'RE  
TRADING  
BLOW FOR  
BLOW...  
WAIT...



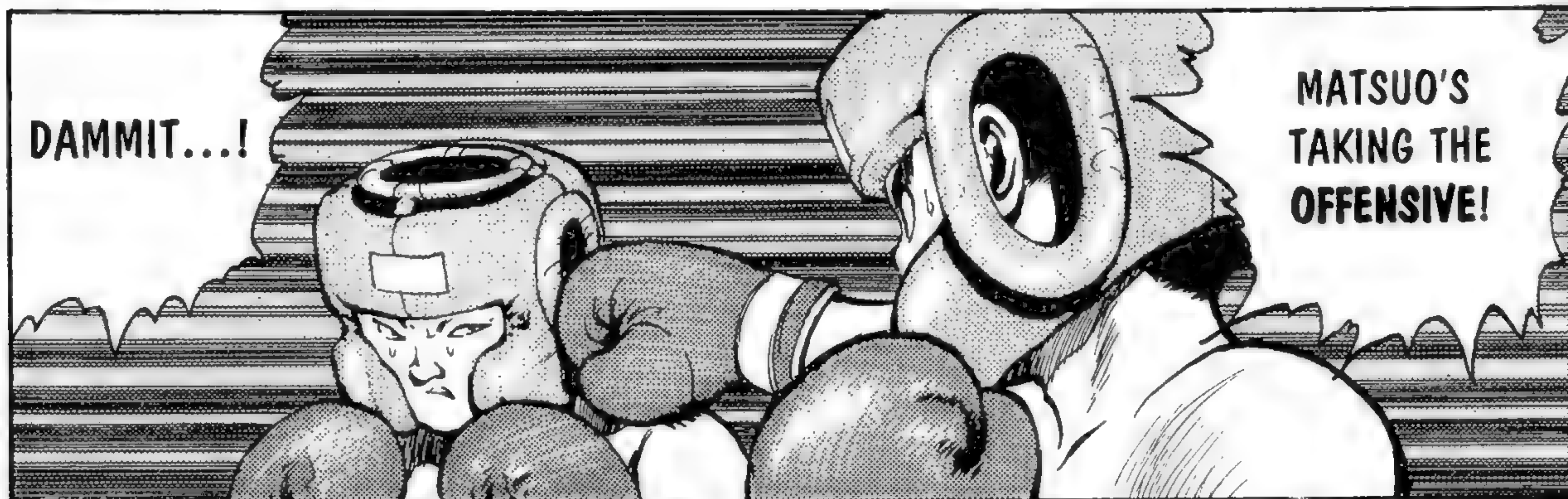
HE'S NOT  
FLINCHING!  
HE'S **PLOWING**  
RIGHT IN!

AGAINST  
SAMEJIMA,  
EVEN...



IS THAT  
REALLY  
MATSUO  
...?!

WOULDJA  
LOOK AT  
THAT!



DAMMIT...!

MATSUO'S  
TAKING THE  
OFFENSIVE!



BUT  
MY OWN  
PUNCH...

I...FEEL  
SAMEJIMA'S  
BLOWS...



WHACK

C'MON!

URPH!

WHAP

BAM



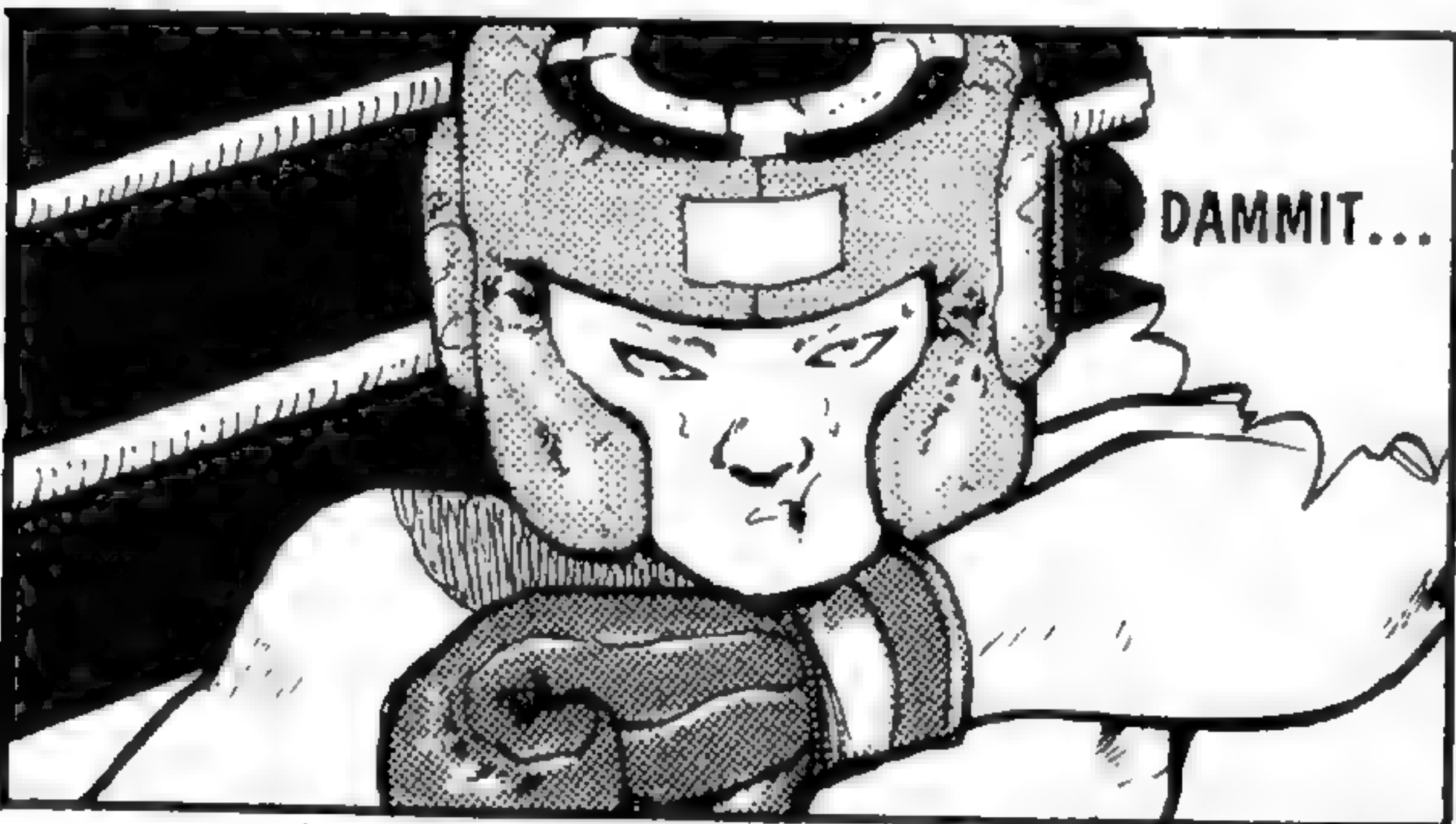
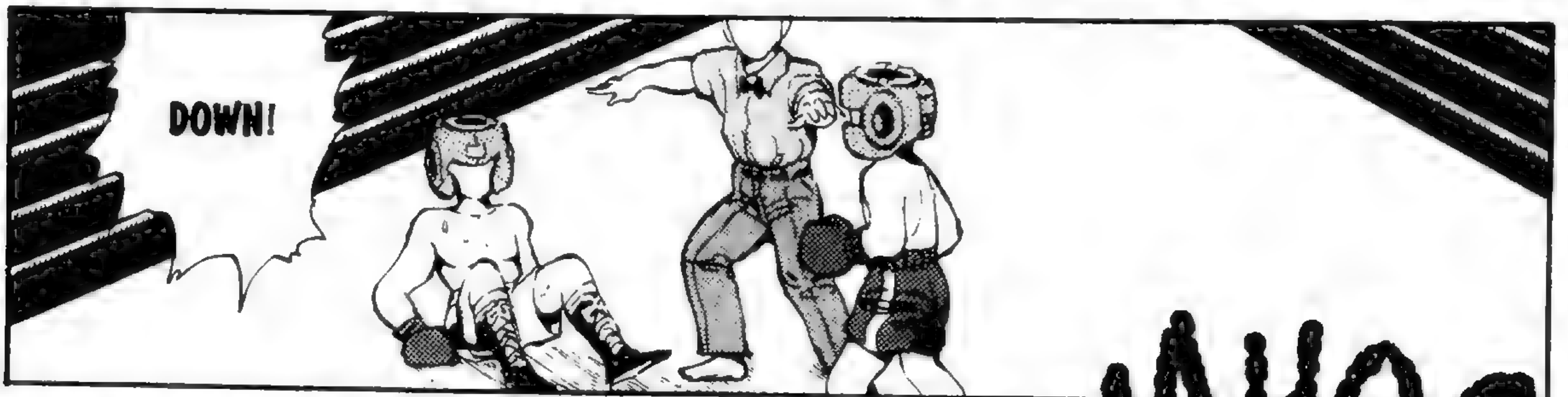
...AND PUNCH!  
HARD AS  
I CAN!!

DON'T RUN!!  
LOOK MY  
OPPONENT  
IN THE EYE...

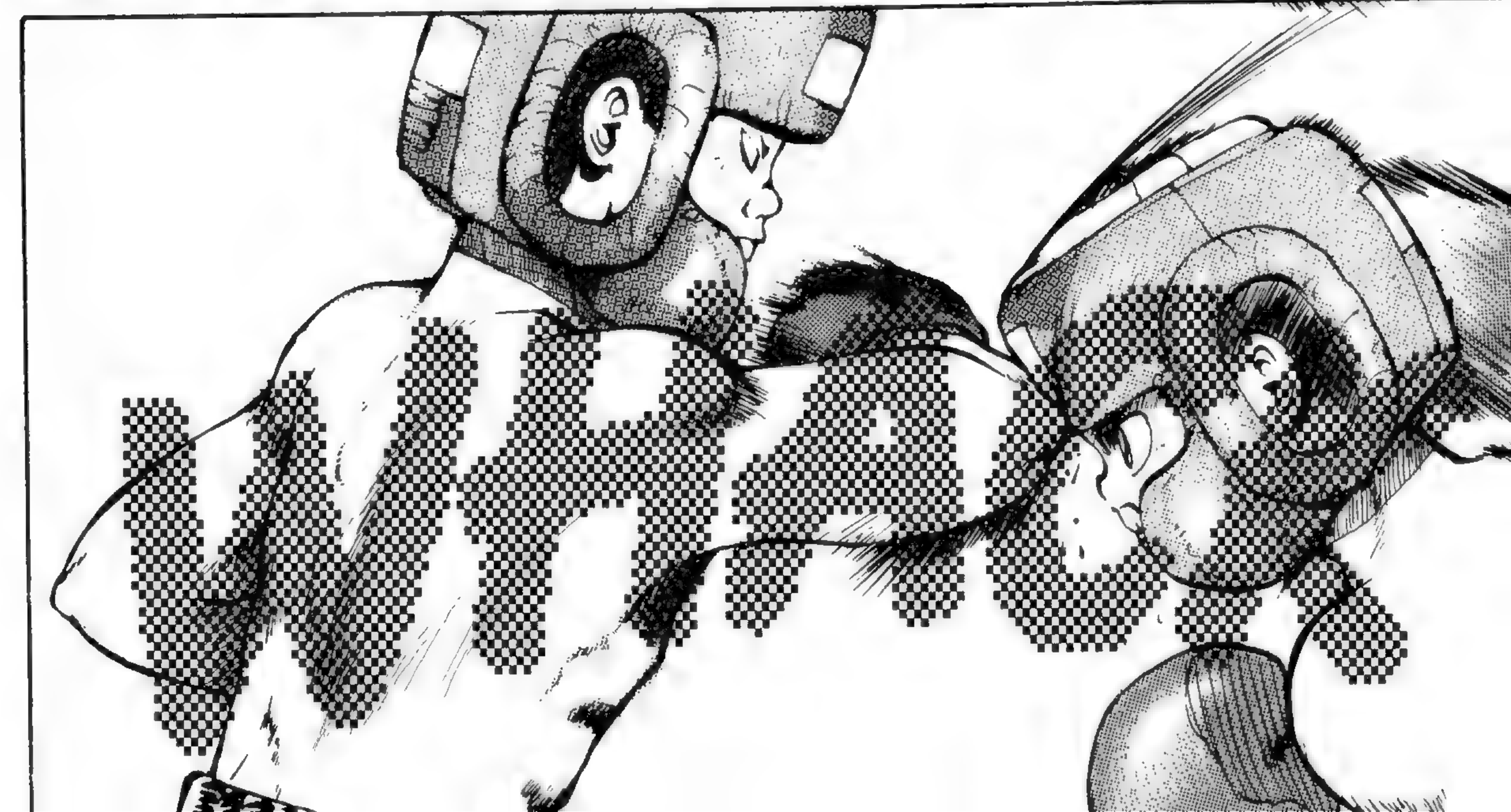
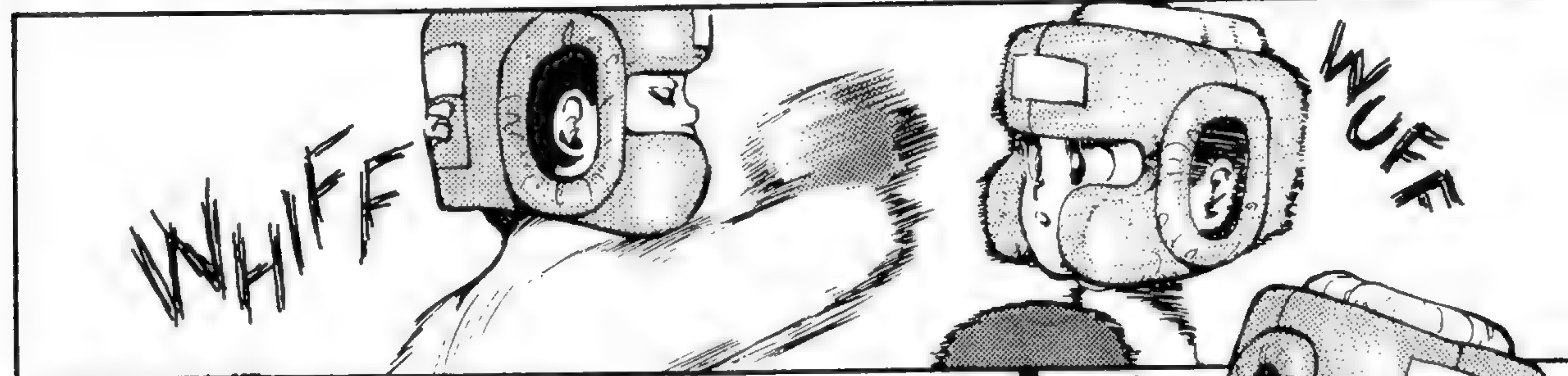
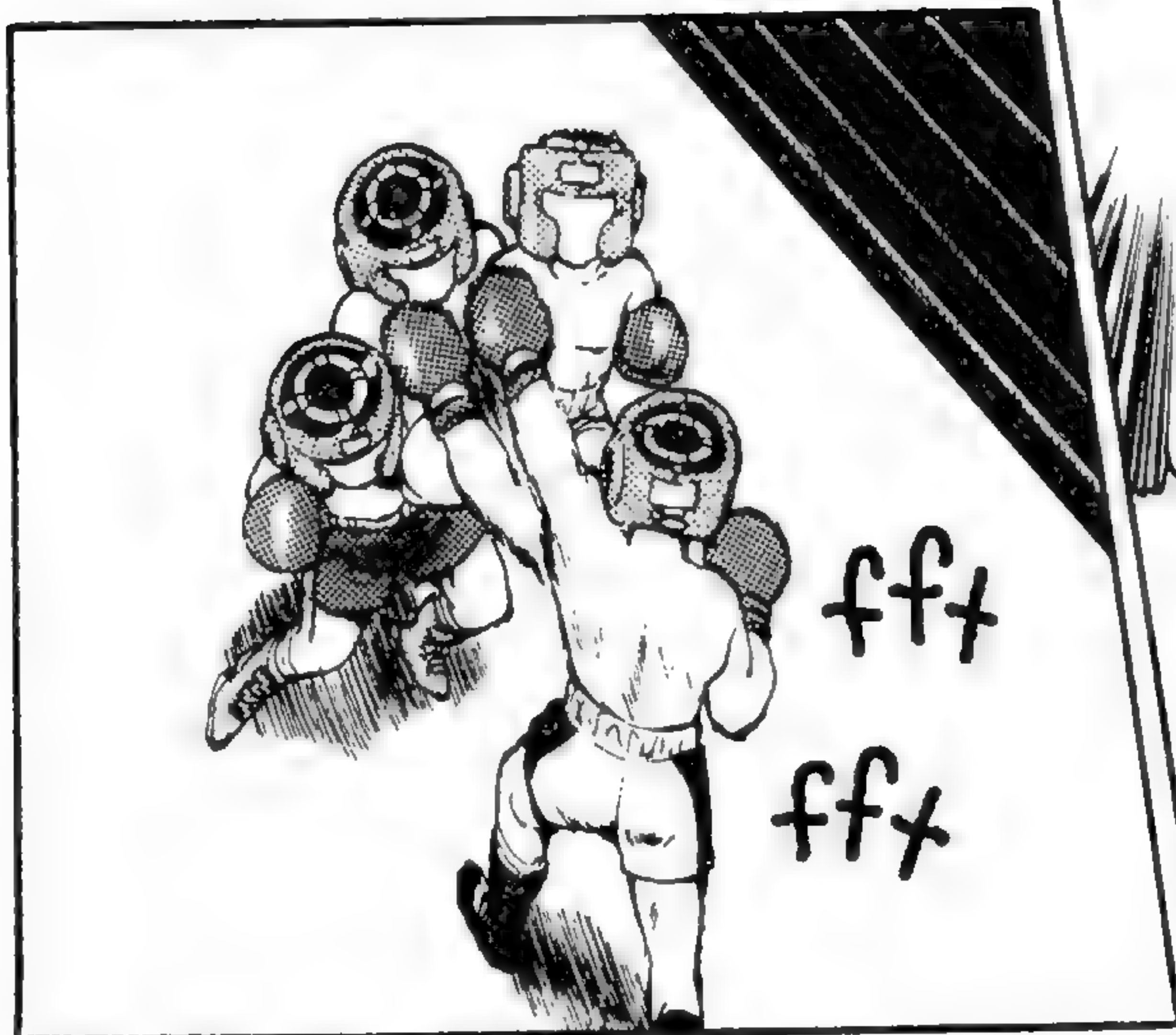
WHAP

NOBODY  
GETS THE  
BETTER  
OF ME!

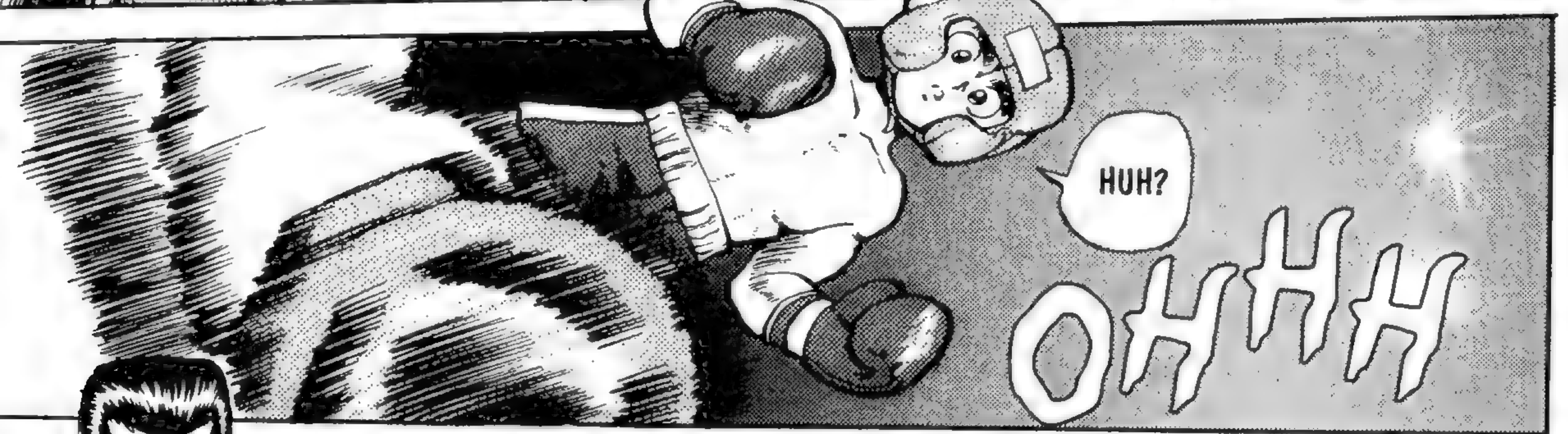




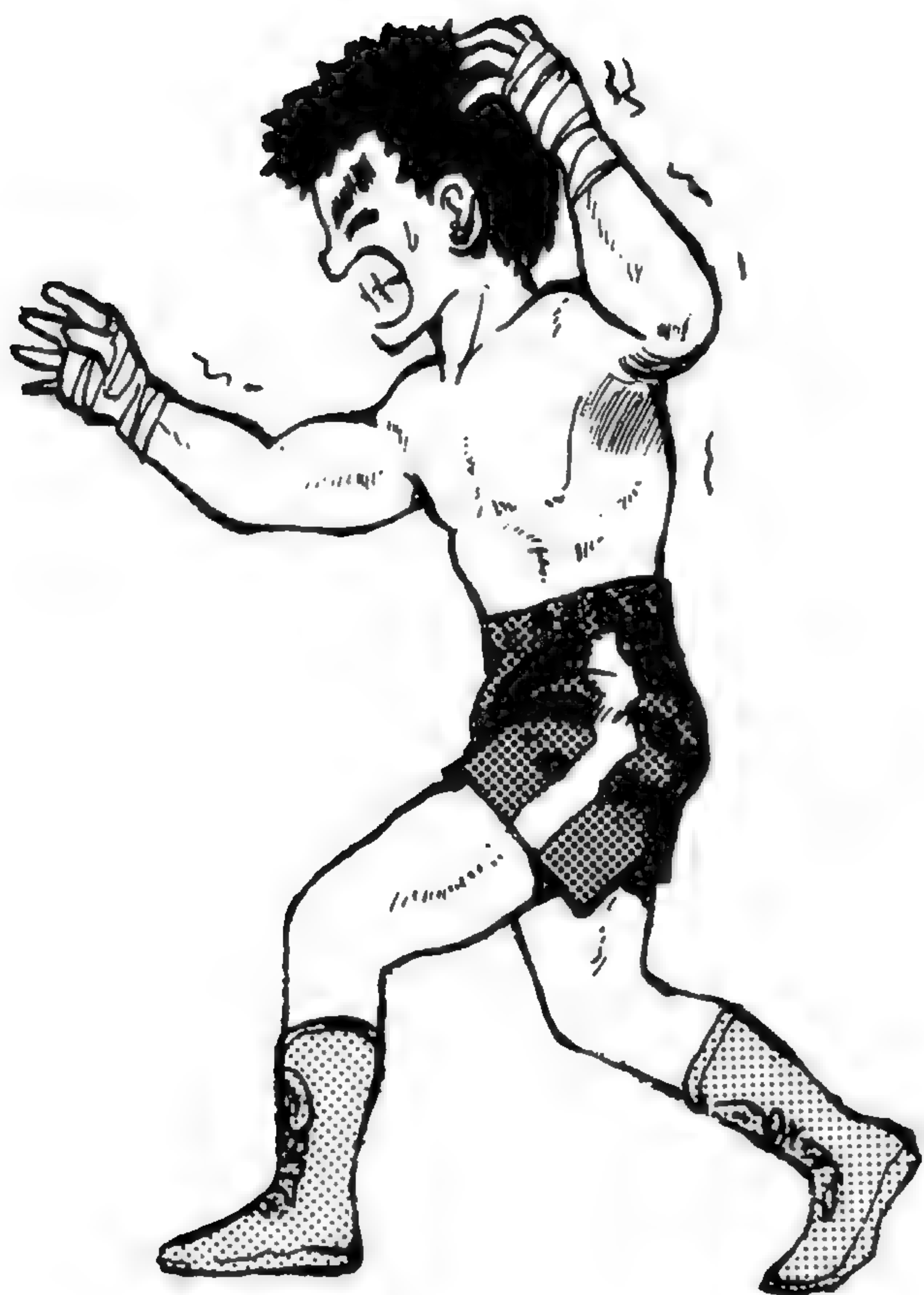














**CHAPTER 17: THE GOLDEN AWAKENING!!**



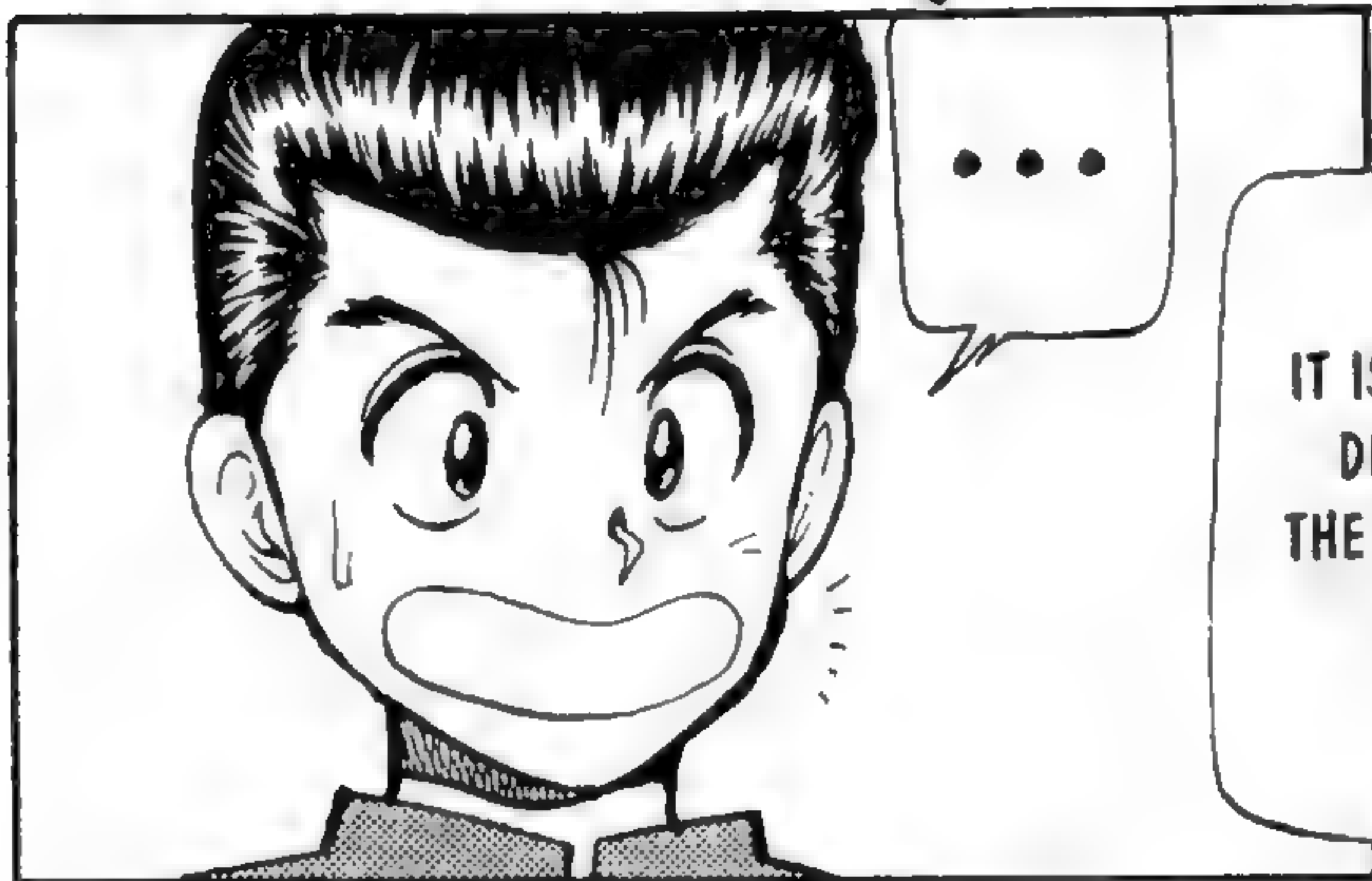
**I...I CAN  
RETURN  
TO LIFE?!**



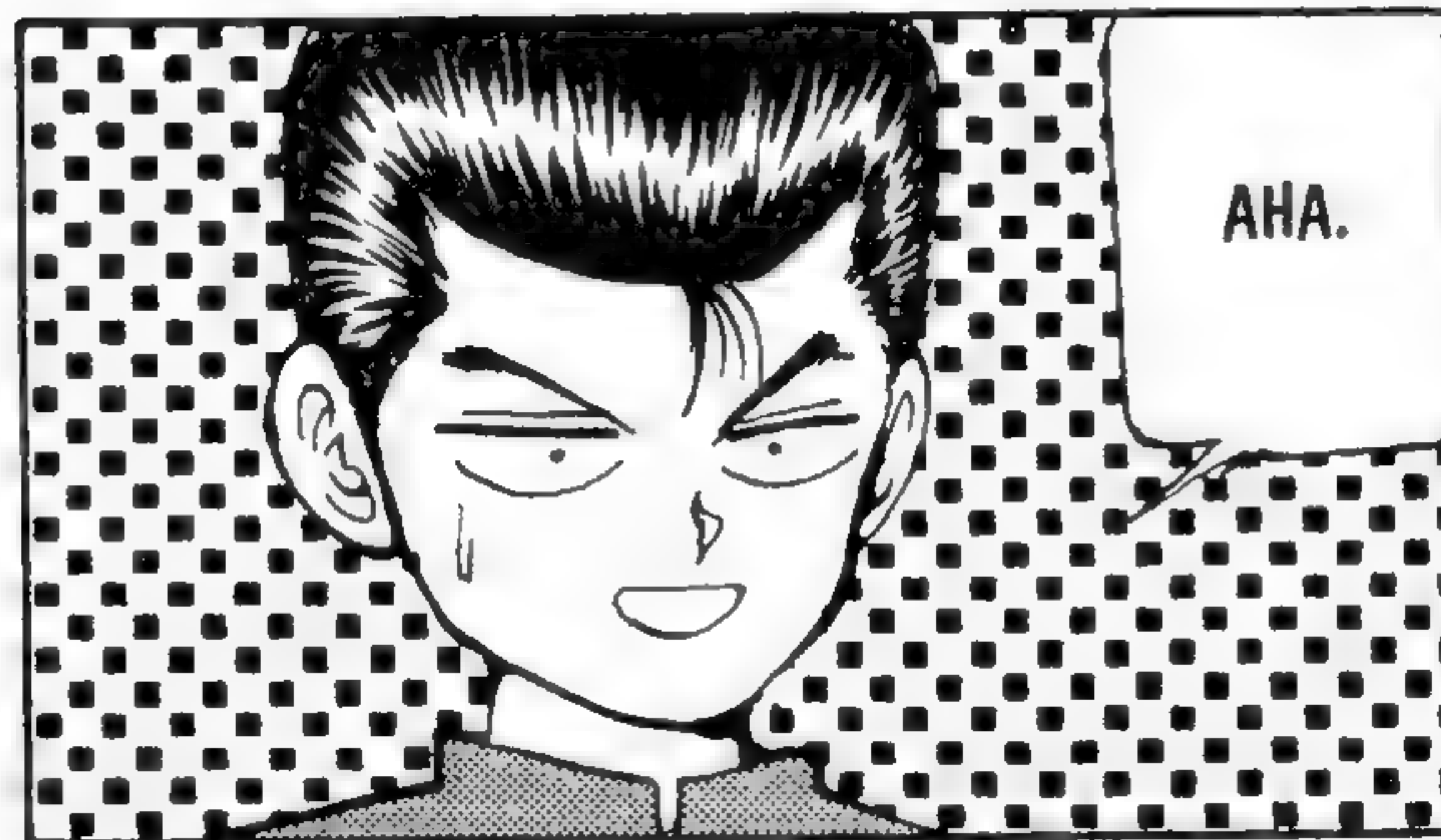


YOU'RE  
SERIOUS?  
NO JOKE?

THAT'S RIGHT!  
CONGRATULATIONS!



IT IS AN OFFICIAL  
DECISION OF  
THE UNDERWORLD  
COUNCIL.



AHA.

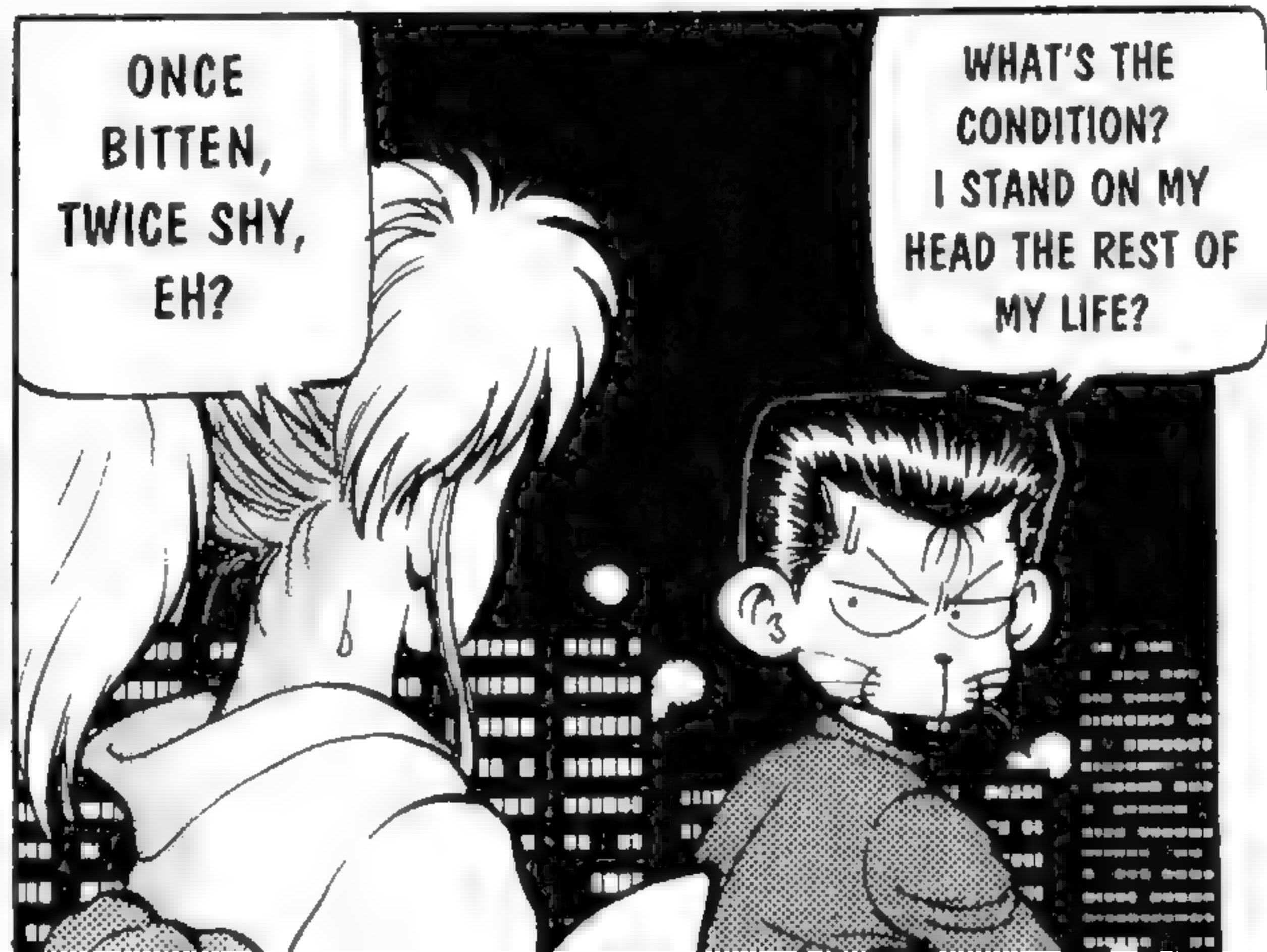


THIS IS THE  
REAL DEAL!  
COMPLETE  
REVIVAL!

PIP

NOT THIS  
TIME,  
THOUGH!

TA-DA DUM



ONCE  
BITTEN,  
TWICE SHY,  
EH?

WHAT'S THE  
CONDITION?  
I STAND ON MY  
HEAD THE REST OF  
MY LIFE?



NO MORE,  
NO LESS!

MY DAD'S BACK,  
SO I HAVE SOME  
TIME ON MY  
HANDS.

WHAT'S  
WITH YOU  
LATELY? YOU KEEP  
POPPING IN!  
DON'T YOU HAVE  
A JOB?!

GOOD THING,  
TOO, SINCE  
TOMORROW'S  
THE DEADLINE.  
CAN'T MISS  
THAT.

I CAN NOW  
DEVOTE MY FULL  
ATTENTION TO  
RETURNING YOU  
TO YOUR BODY.

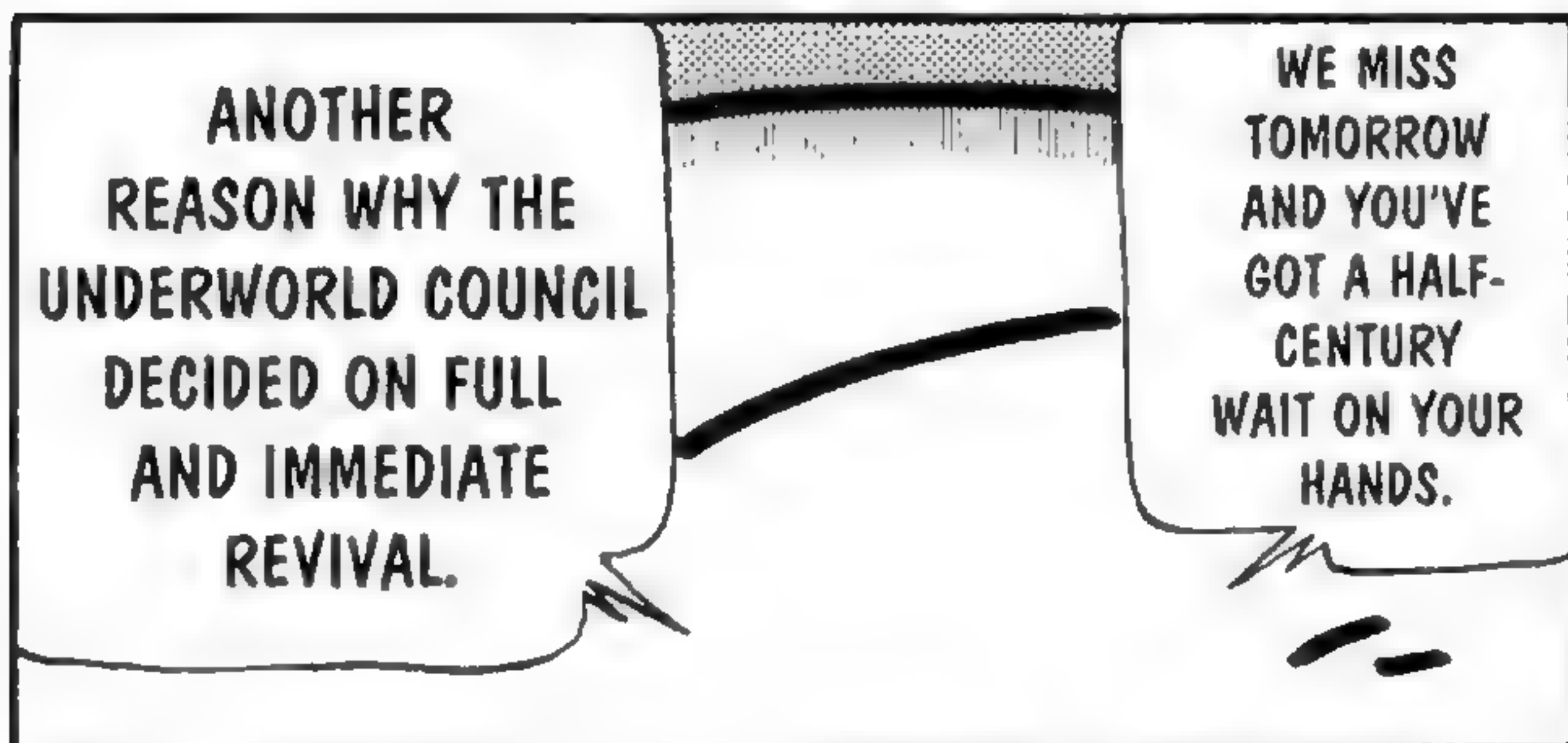
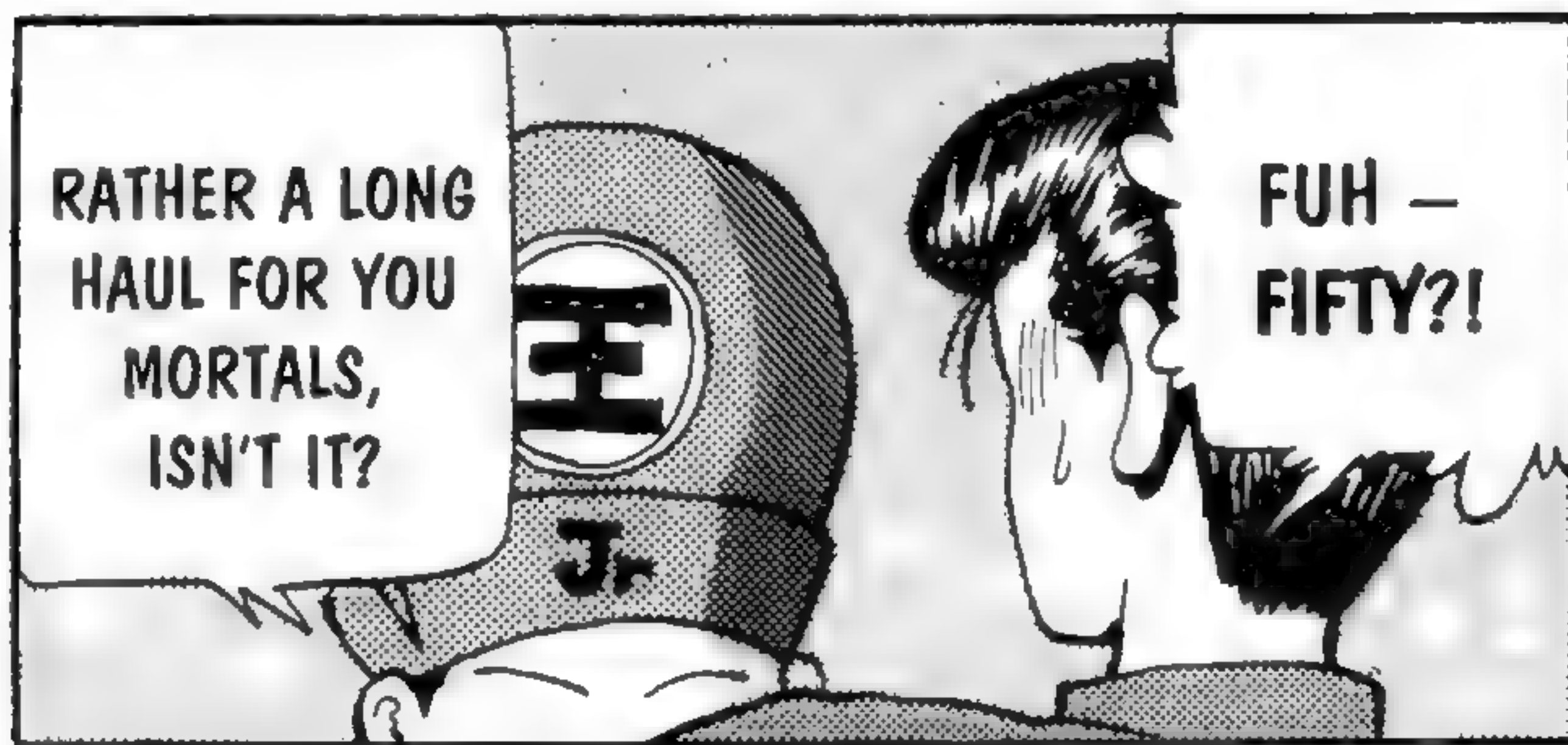
YO!

...THE SOUL AND THE BODY  
HAVE HARMONICS, SO TO TRULY  
RETURN YOU TO LIFE, WE HAVE TO  
SEND YOU BACK ON A DAY WHERE  
THEY MATCH PRECISELY. IN YOUR CASE,  
THE CYCLE IS LONGER THAN AVERAGE.

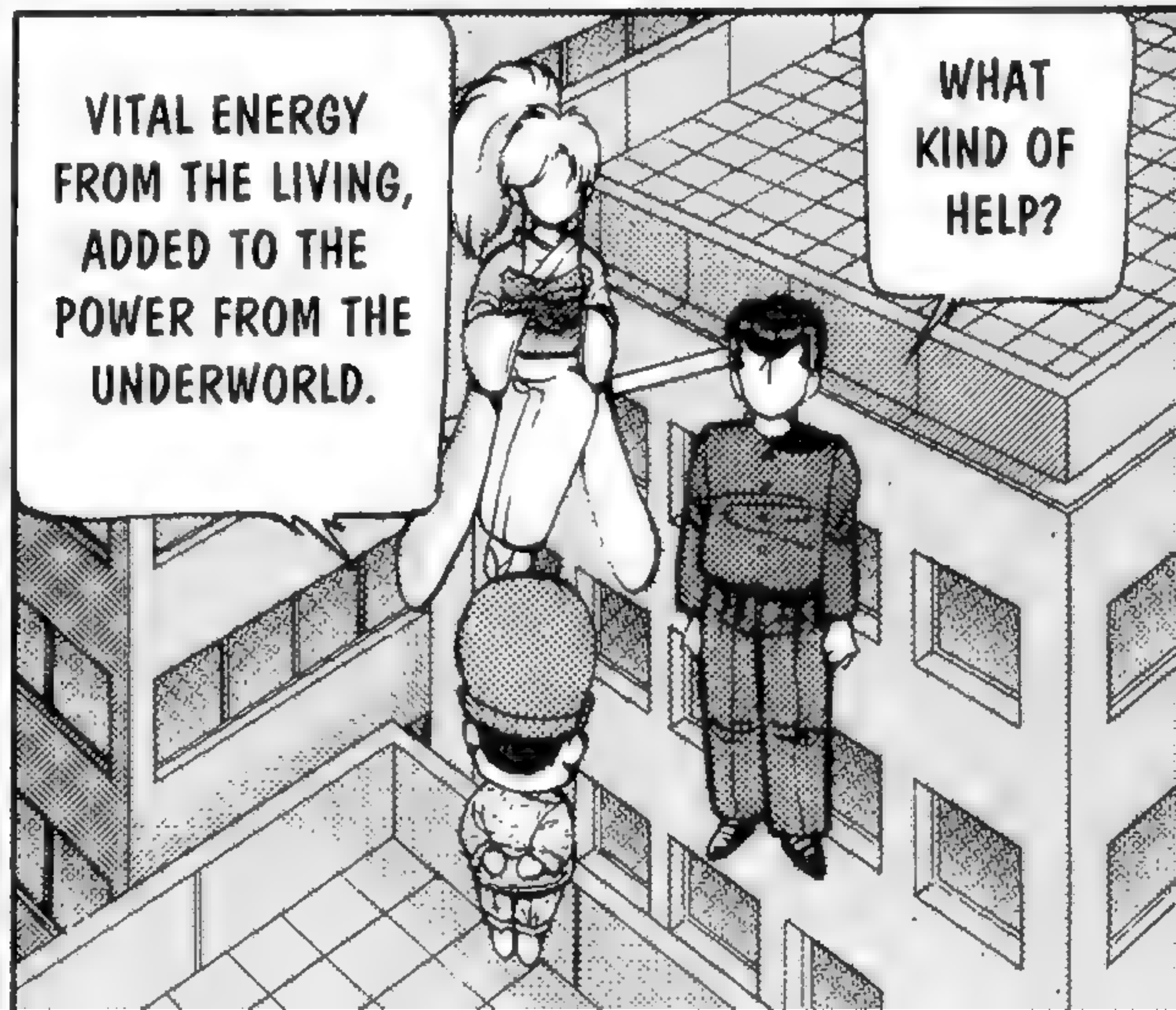
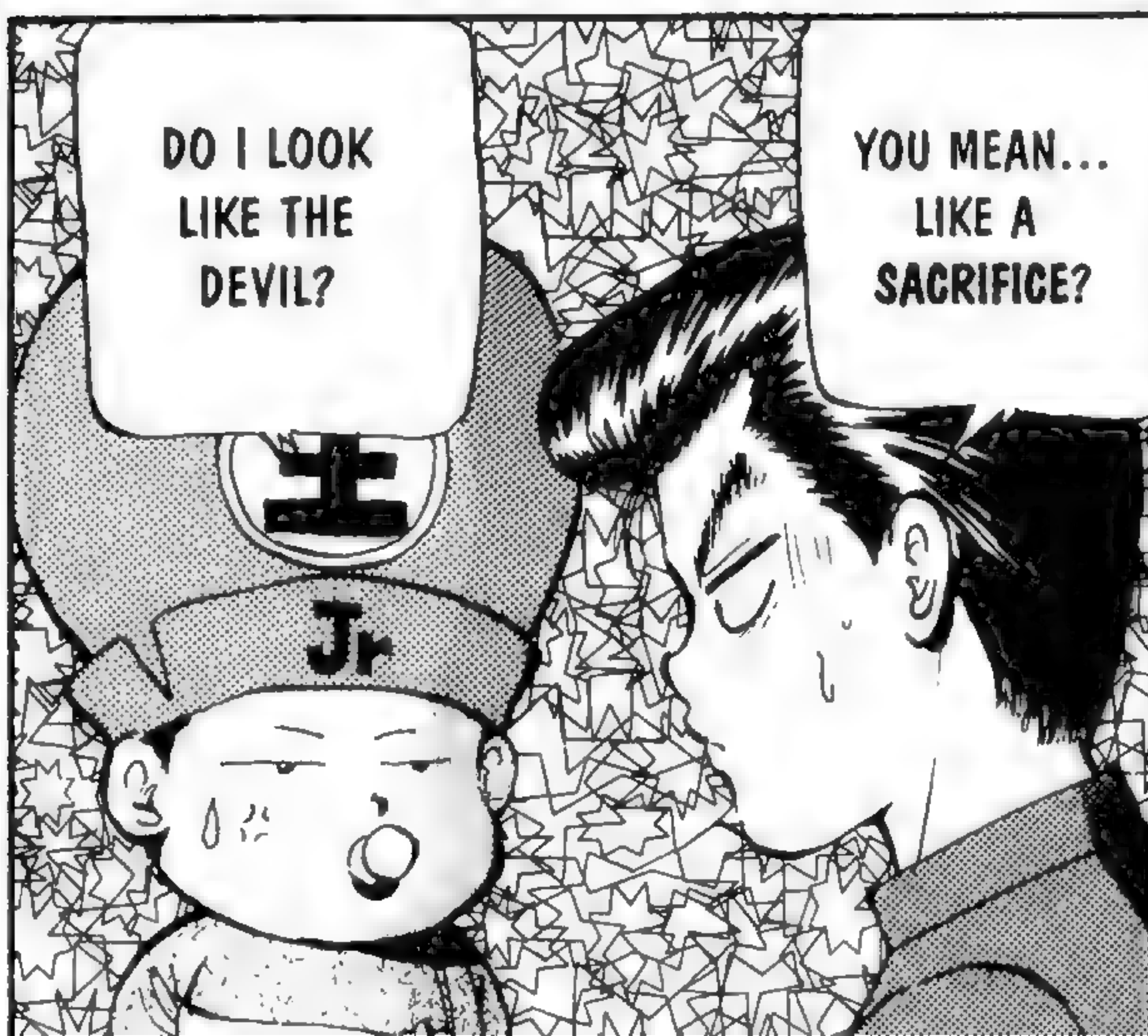
WHY?  
WHAT'LL  
HAPPEN?

WELL,  
IT'S LIKE  
THIS...





A CLOSE-UP OF KOENMA'S EYE





THE ONLY WAY  
POSSIBLE...

BREATH...  
HOW?

A  
LITTLE BREATH  
OF IT, INTO  
YOUR BODY.

WE'LL JUST  
BORROW  
A LITTLE  
ENERGY AS  
A CATALYST!

...MOUTH-  
TO-MOUTH.

ARTIFICIAL  
RESPIRATION IS  
A PROVEN  
LIFESAVING  
TECHNIQUE.

THIS  
SURPRISES  
YOU?

THE ONLY  
DIFFERENCE IS THAT  
WE'RE TRANSFERRING  
VITAL ENERGY  
INSTEAD OF OXYGEN.

YOU'LL SEND  
A MESSAGE TO  
THREE PEOPLE  
IN THEIR DREAMS  
TONIGHT.

ALL YOU NEED  
IS FOR ONE OF THEM  
TO UNDERSTAND  
AND ACT ON IT.

SAY...

...WHAT?!



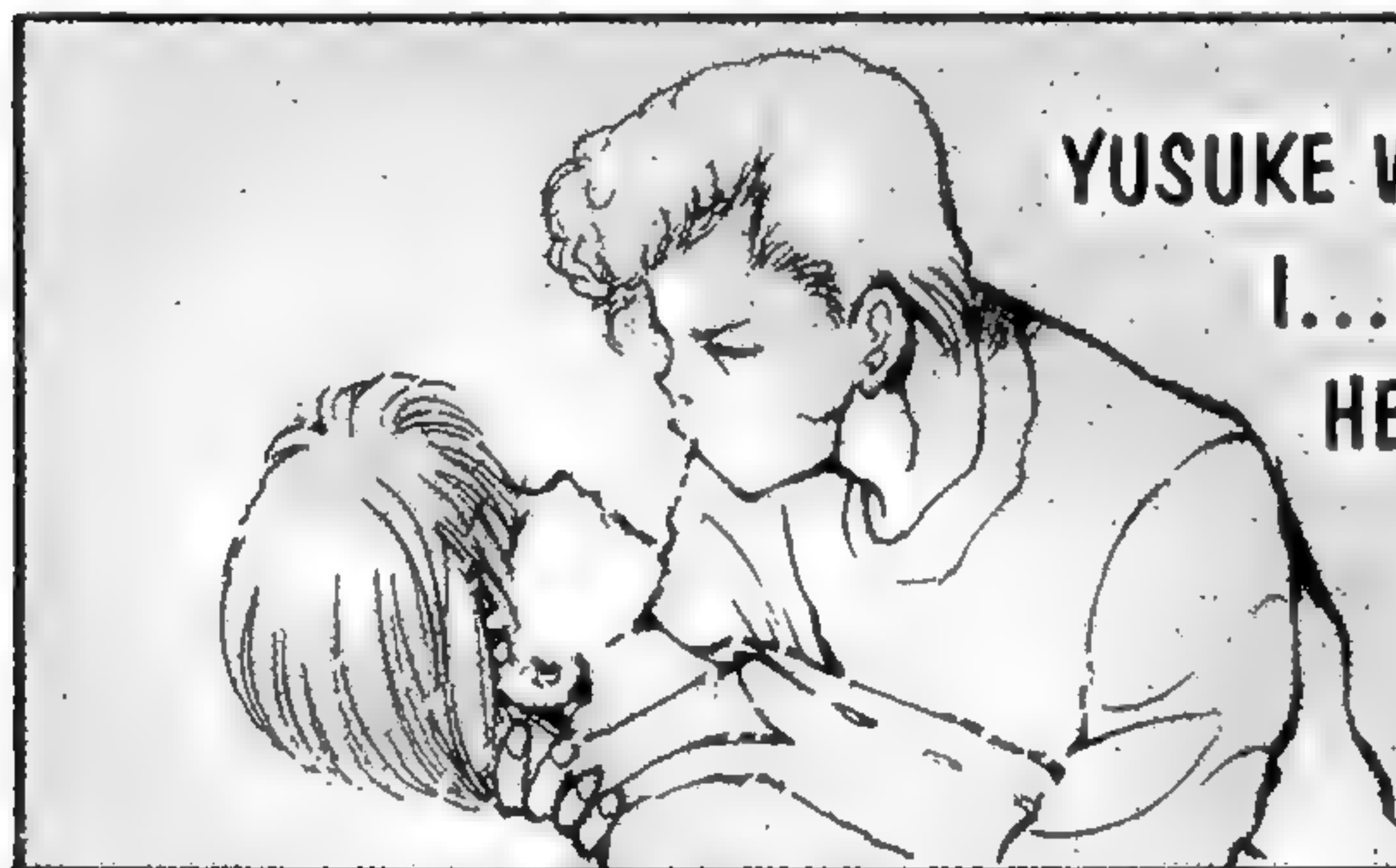


GACK...  
MORNING  
ALREADY.

WH-WH-WHAT  
A VILE, STOMACH-  
CHURNING  
DREAM!



W  
A  
A  
H



YUSUKE WAS GLOWING GOLD,  
I...I KISSED HIM,  
HE WOKE UP...



BRR



SO IT'S  
MORNING!  
WHO CARES?  
I'M PLAYING  
HOOKY!!

BUT IT MEANS  
NOTHING!!



X  
SHIVER



HORRIBLE,  
DISGUSTING...

WH-WHY DID  
I DREAM  
THAT...?



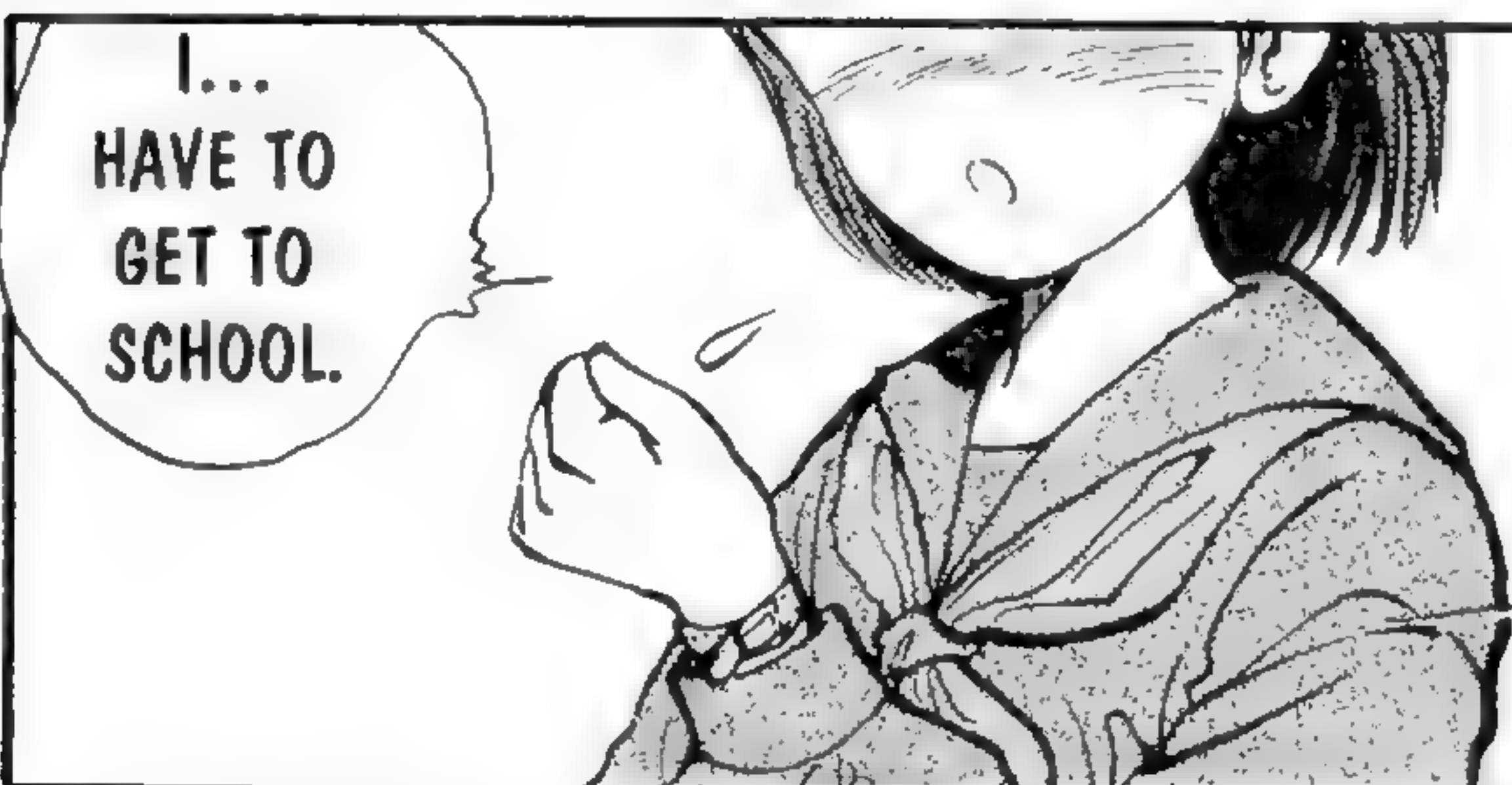
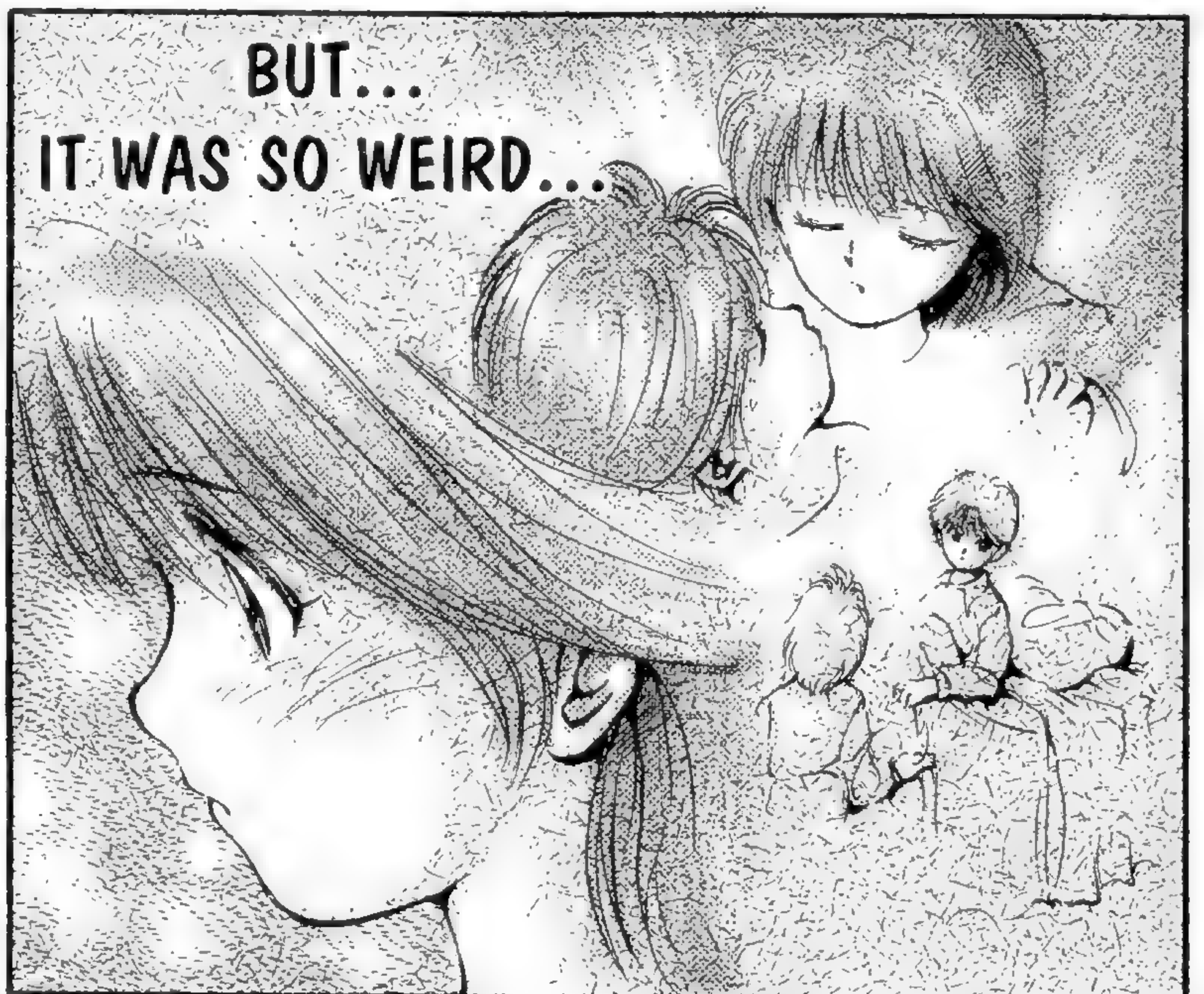


IN THE CONDO ATSUKO  
RENTS BY EXTORTING  
MONEY FROM YAKUZA...

THERE'S NO GLOW...  
SO IT WAS JUST  
A DREAM.



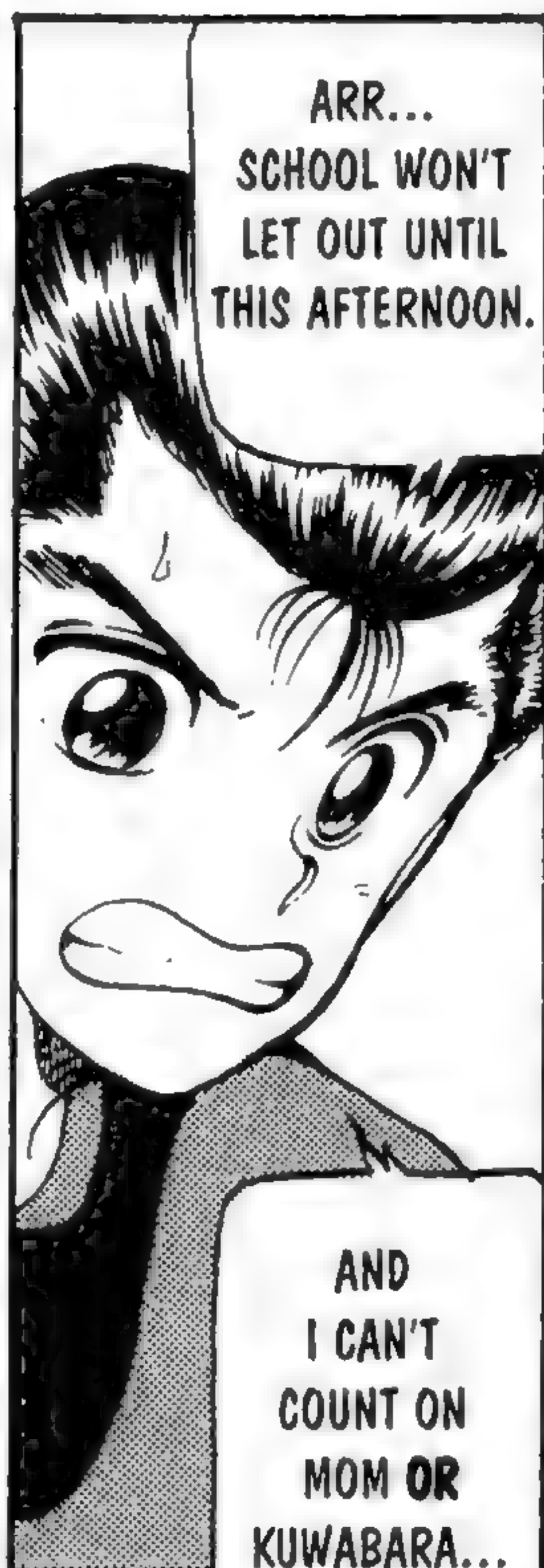
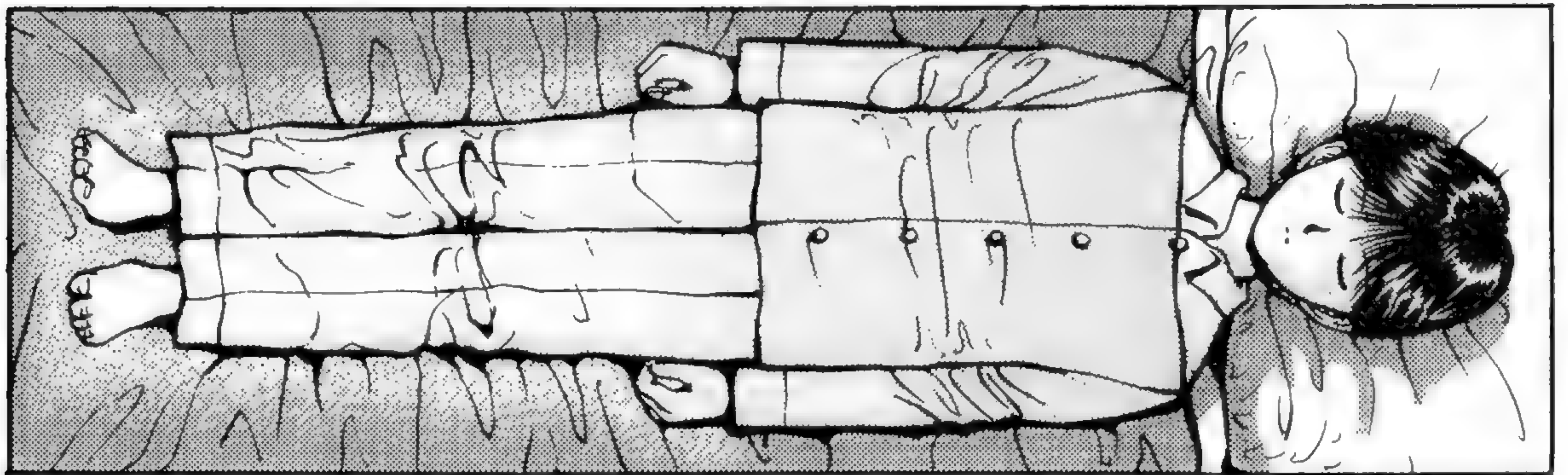
...



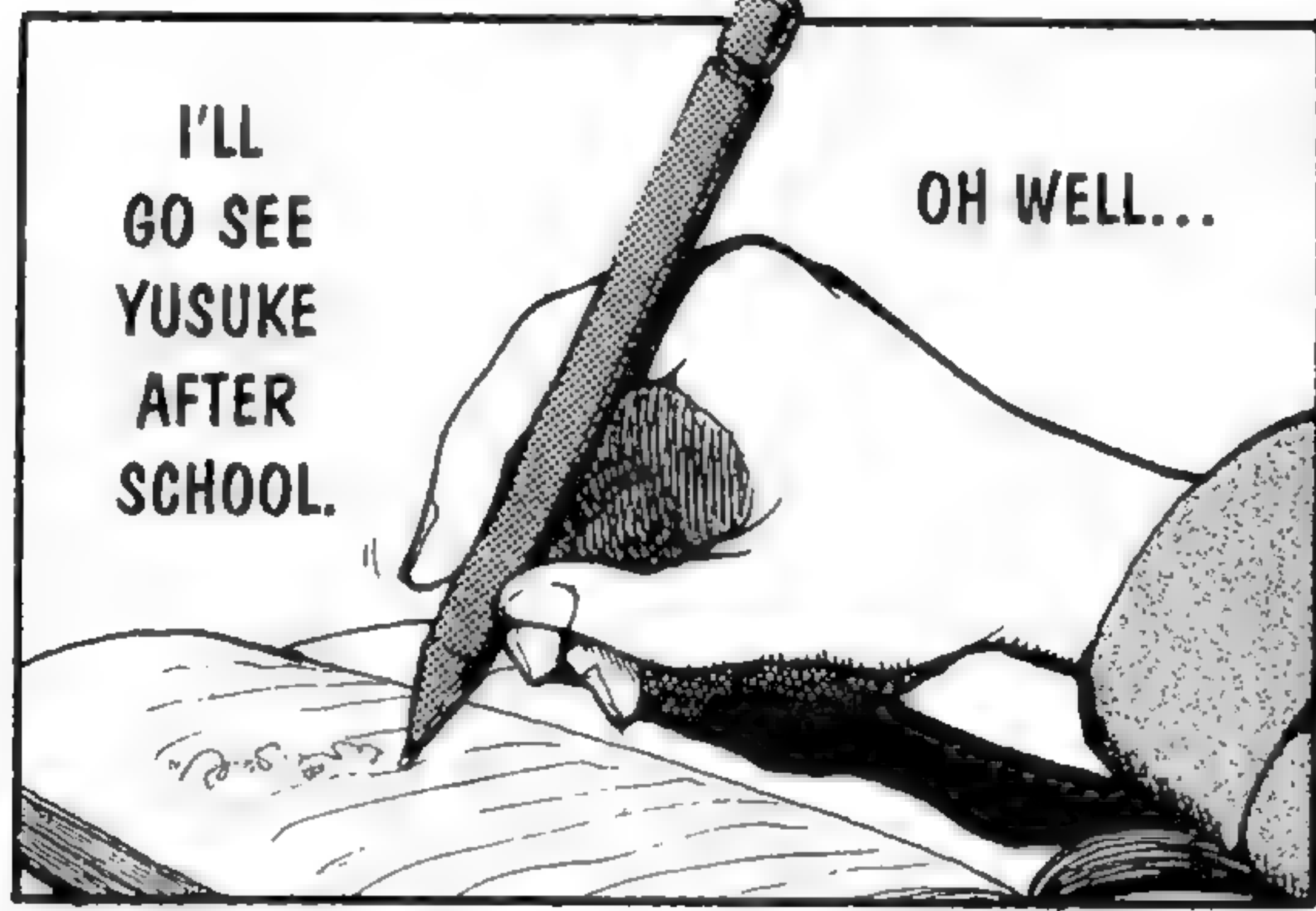
I...  
HAVE TO  
GET TO  
SCHOOL.

GOD, NOW IT'S  
MAKING ME ALL WEIRD!









I'LL  
GO SEE  
YUSUKE  
AFTER  
SCHOOL.

OH WELL...



LOOKS LIKE  
KUWABARA'S  
SKIPPED  
TODAY...

AND I WAS HOPING  
TO TALK TO HIM  
ABOUT THE DREAM.



HUH?  
YESSIR!

YUKIMURA!  
COME  
WITH ME.

RATTLE



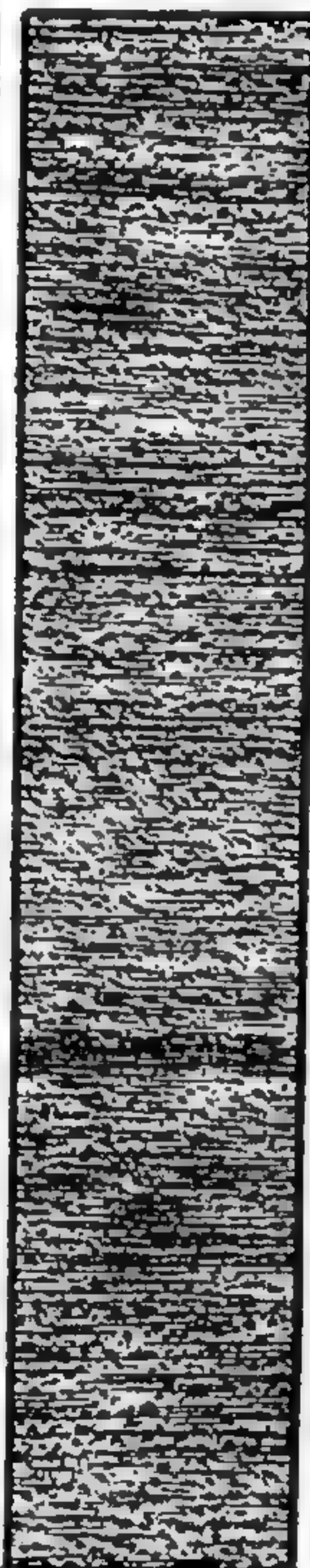
I'M AFRAID  
YOUR MOTHER'S  
BEEN TAKEN  
TO THE HOSPITAL!



5:30 PM

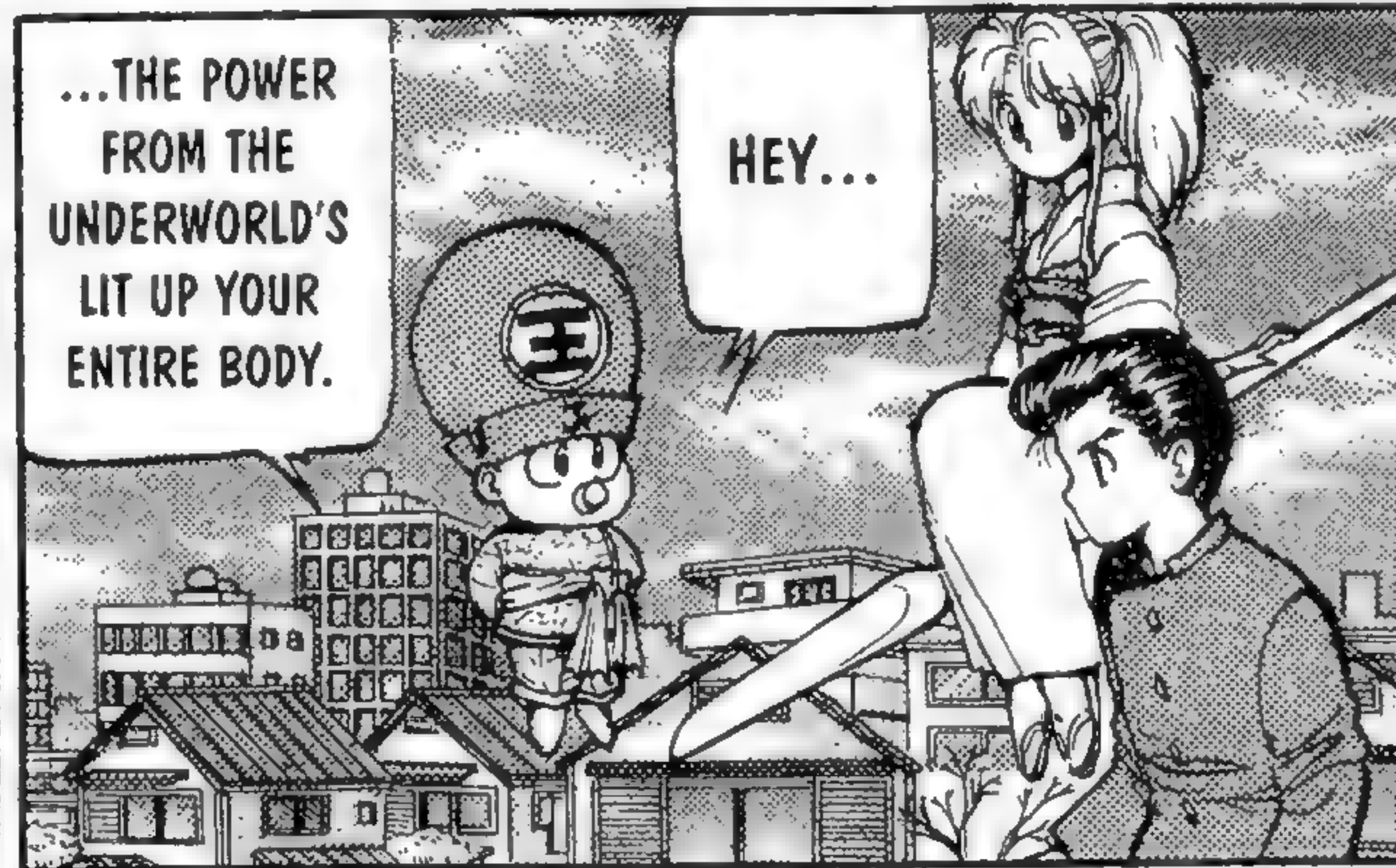
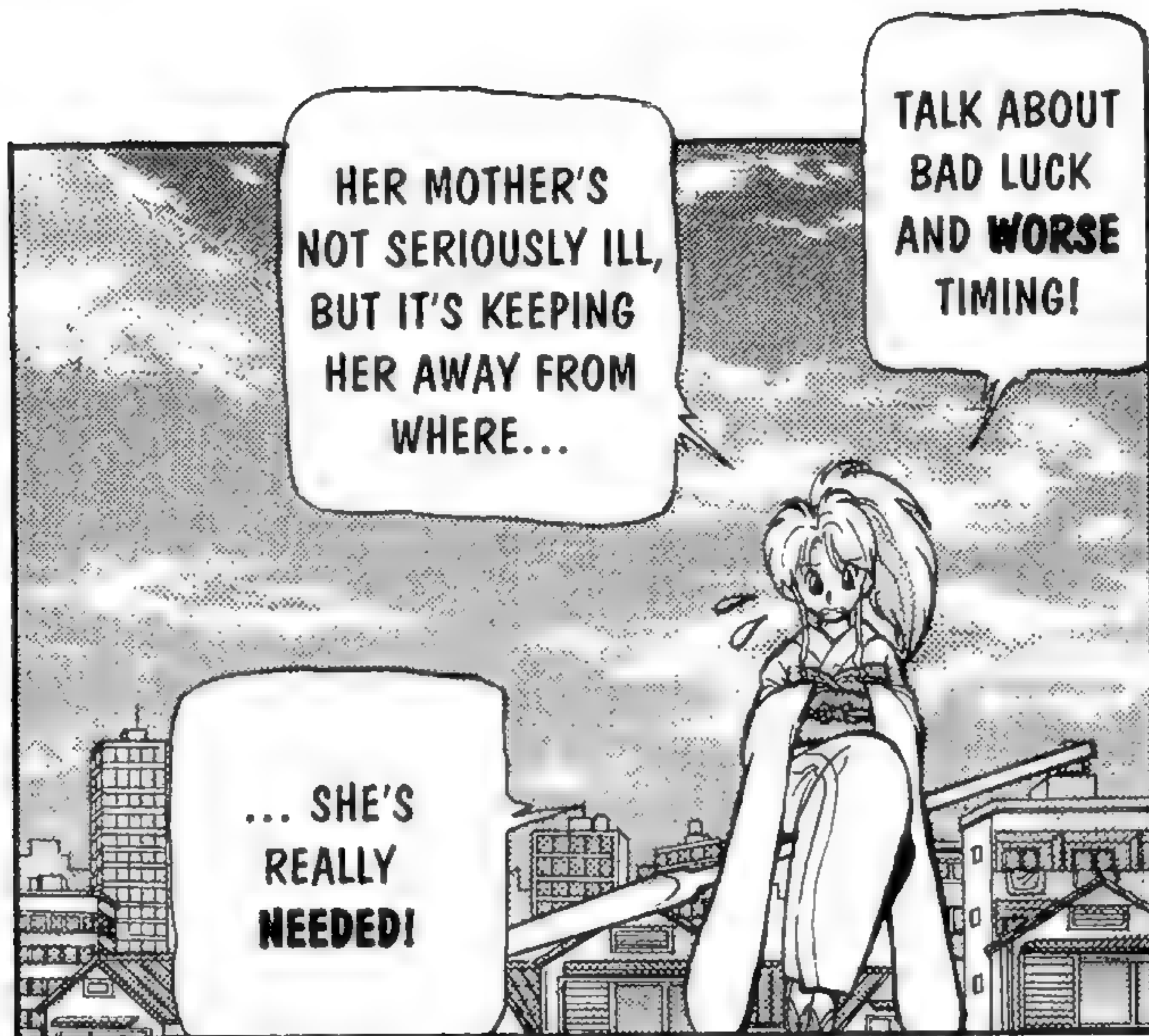
SHE'S  
QUITE WEAK  
FROM FATIGUE  
AND THE FLU...

...BUT SHE'LL  
BE FINE. SHE  
JUST NEEDS  
SOME REST.



!!







I GUESS...  
THAT MIGHT  
BE BEST.  
I...



10:50PM

IT'S LATE...  
YOU SHOULD  
GO ON HOME.

THE SEDATIVE  
WILL KEEP HER  
UNDER UNTIL  
TOMORROW.

HURRY,  
TIME'S...  
RUNNING  
OUT...!

GO TO  
YUSUKE...



WHAT?!

YU...  
SUKU...



THAT'S...  
NOT MOM'S  
VOICE!!



OMIGOSH!!  
THAT DREAM...  
REALLY WAS  
A MESSAGE!!



11:50 PM

...WHAT WILL  
YOU DO?

STILL,  
IF THINGS  
WEREN'T  
TO WORK  
OUT...

YOU ARE  
IMPATIENT.

SHE'S NOT  
COMING.

NO WAY  
I'LL LET KEIKO  
WAIT  
50 YEARS...

...AND TO COME BACK  
ONCE A MONTH  
FOR THAT LONG...  
NO THANKS!

HAVE FAITH  
IN BOTAN.

SLAM

VROOM

!

BEST TO  
BITE THE BULLET  
AND LET MYSELF  
DIE...

IT TOOK  
SOME DOING  
TO GET THE  
HARMONICS  
RIGHT.

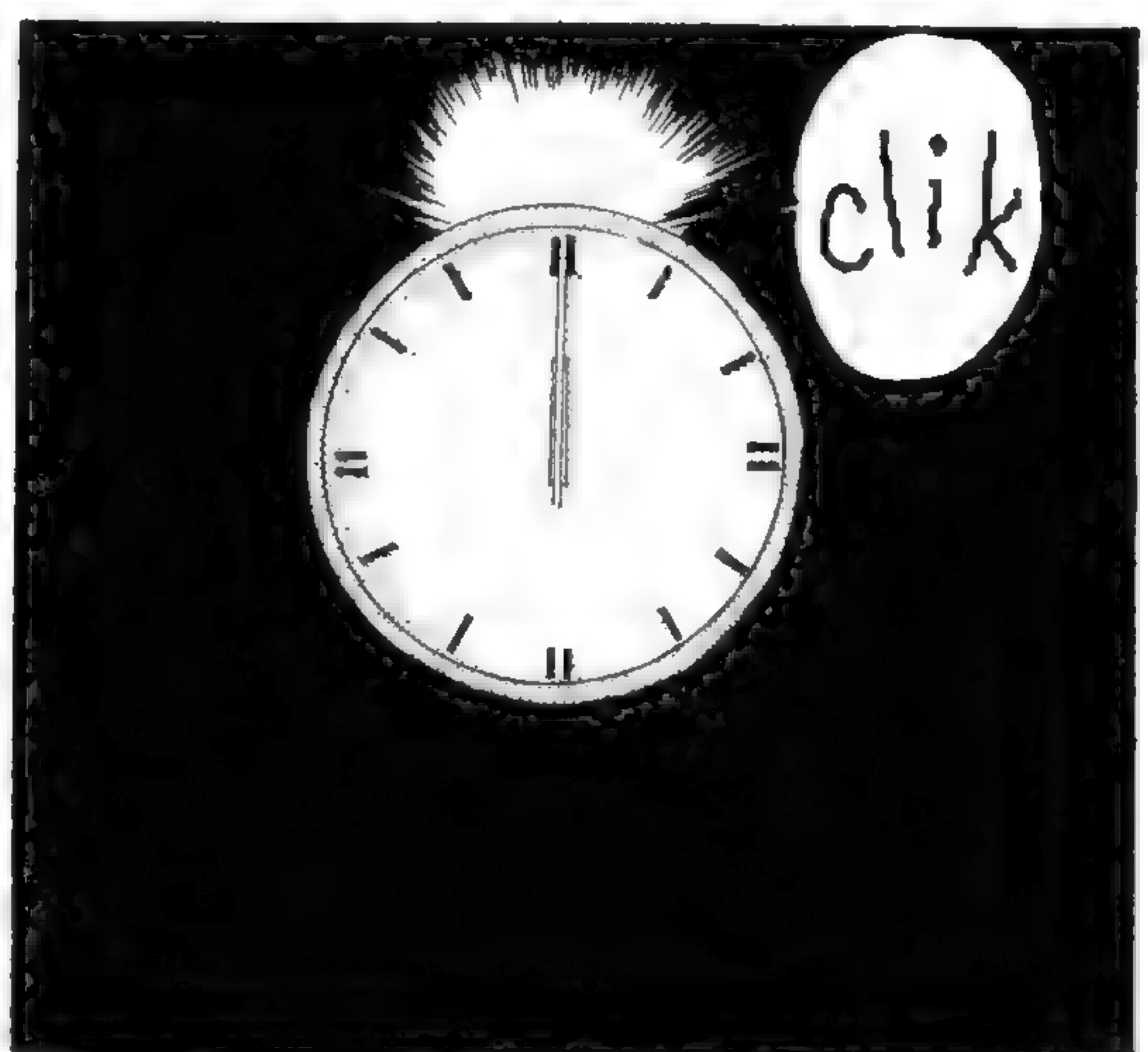
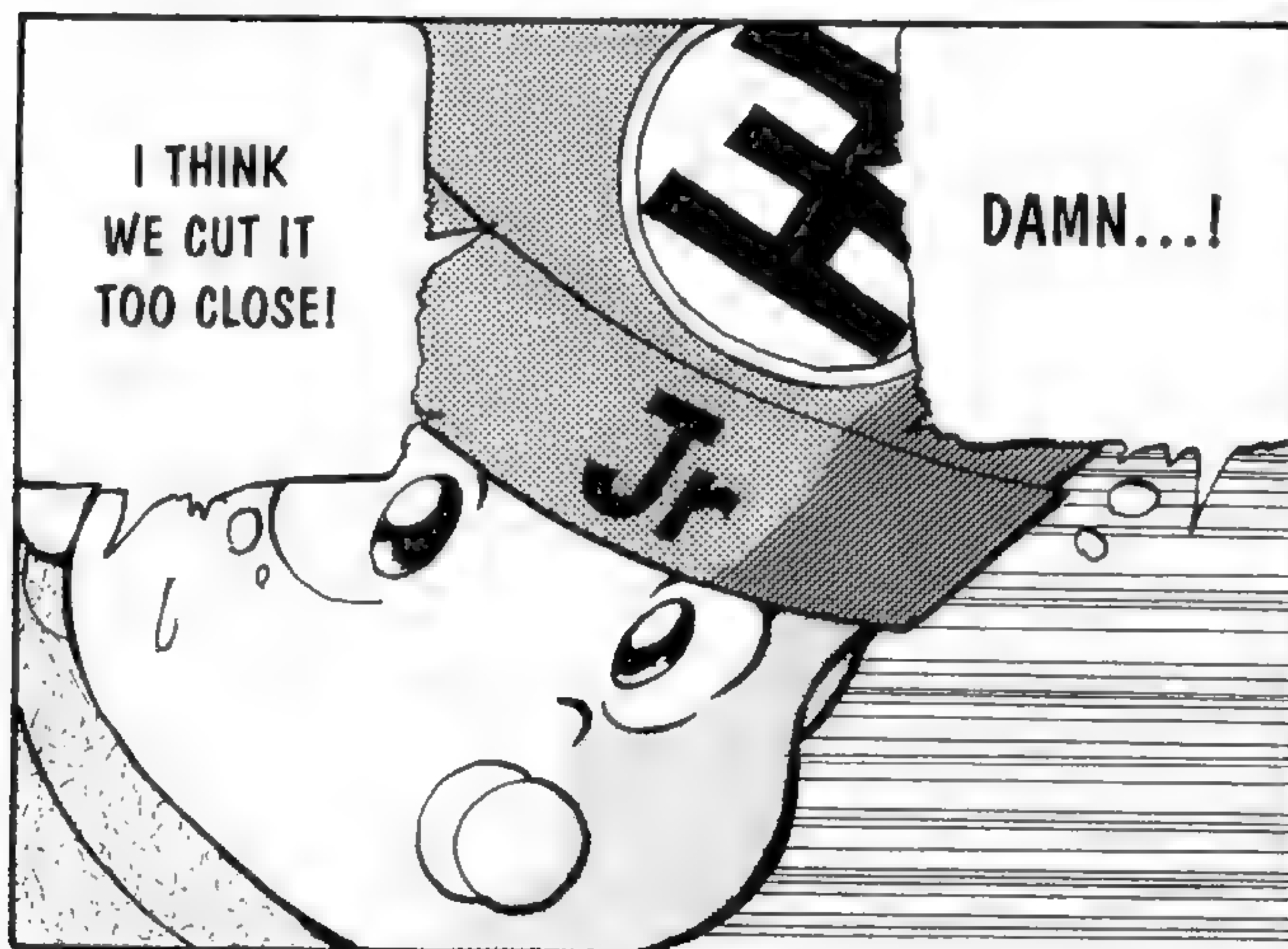
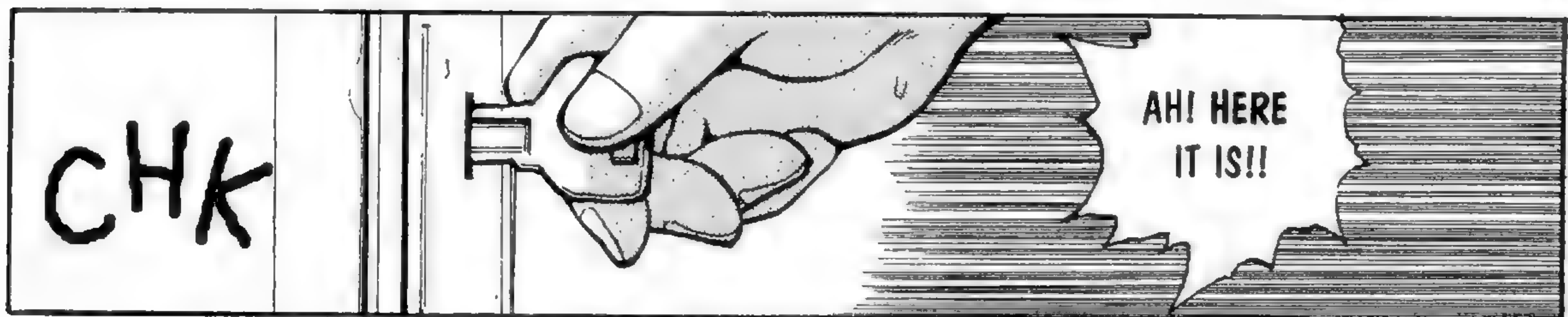
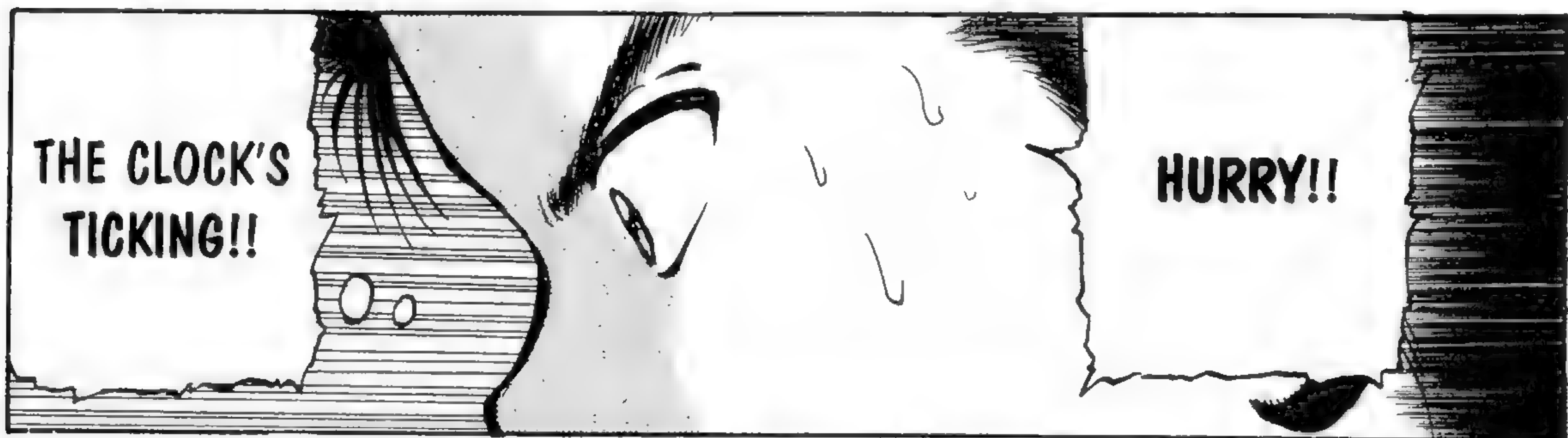
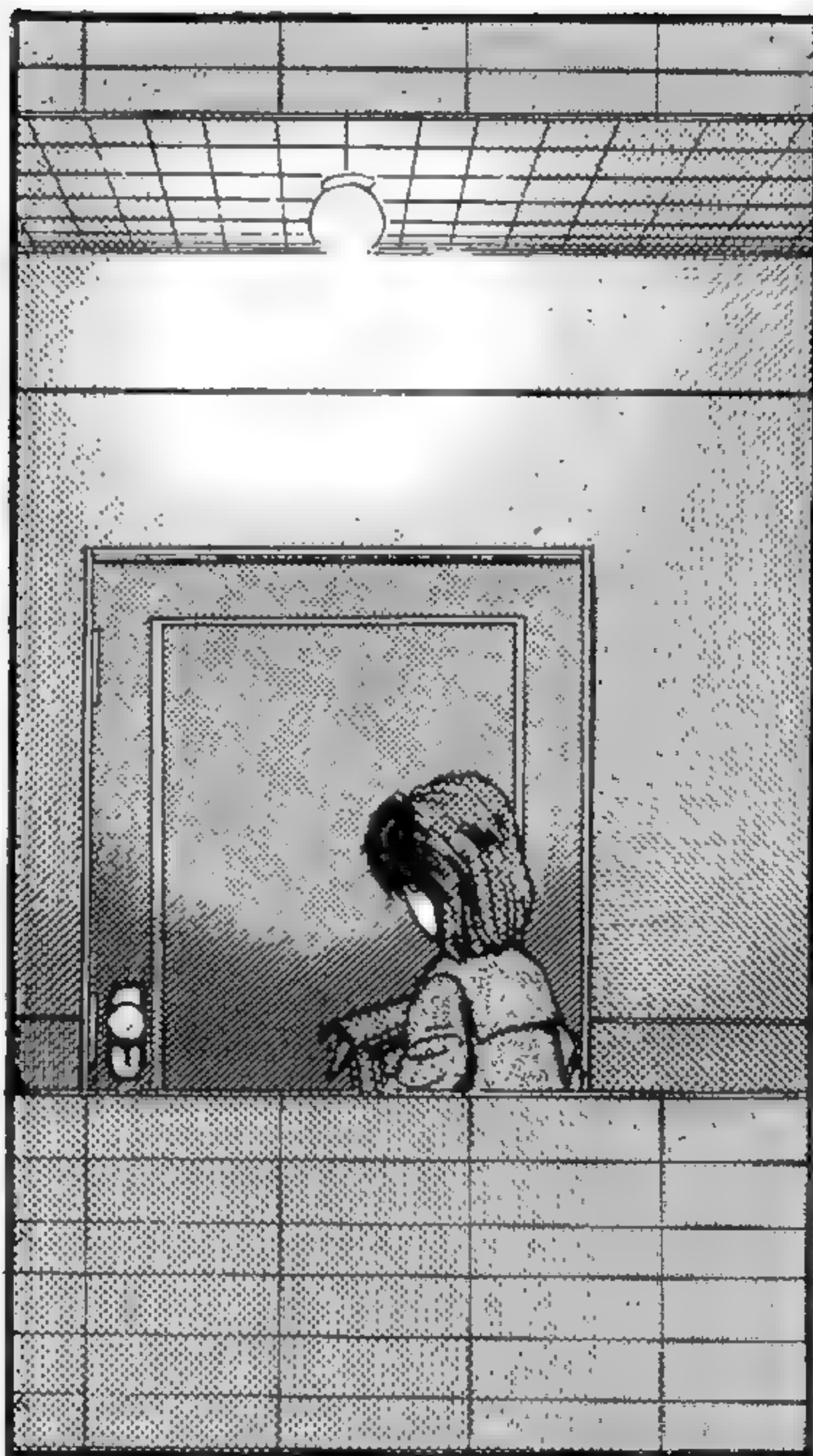
I ALERTED HER  
THROUGH  
HER MOM!!

5 MINUTES—  
JUST  
5 MINUTES!!

HOW MUCH  
TIME'S LEFT?!

KEIKO!!





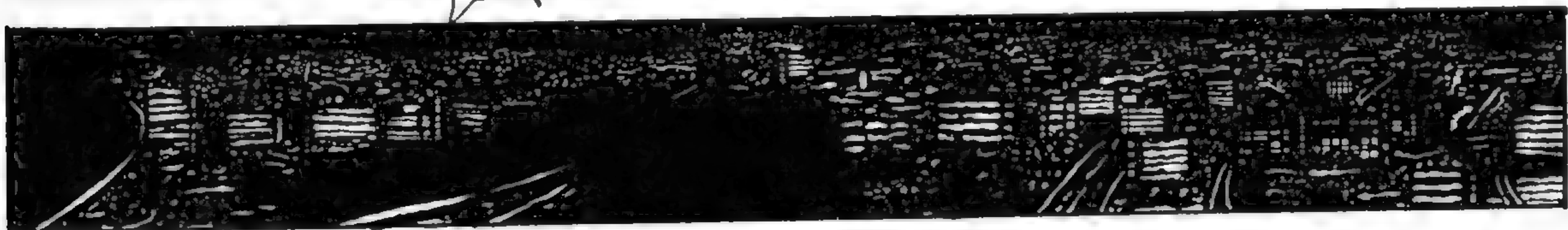




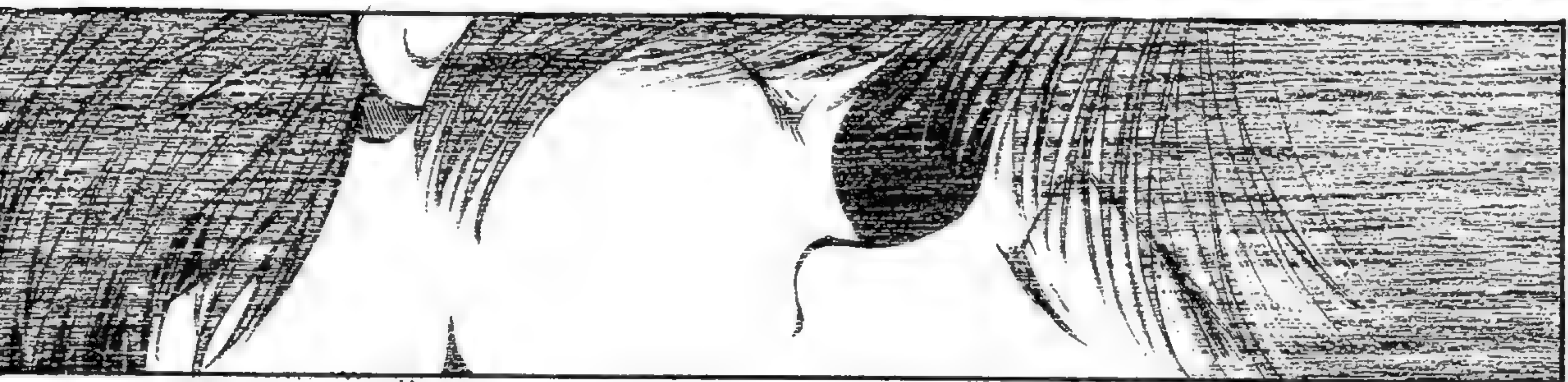
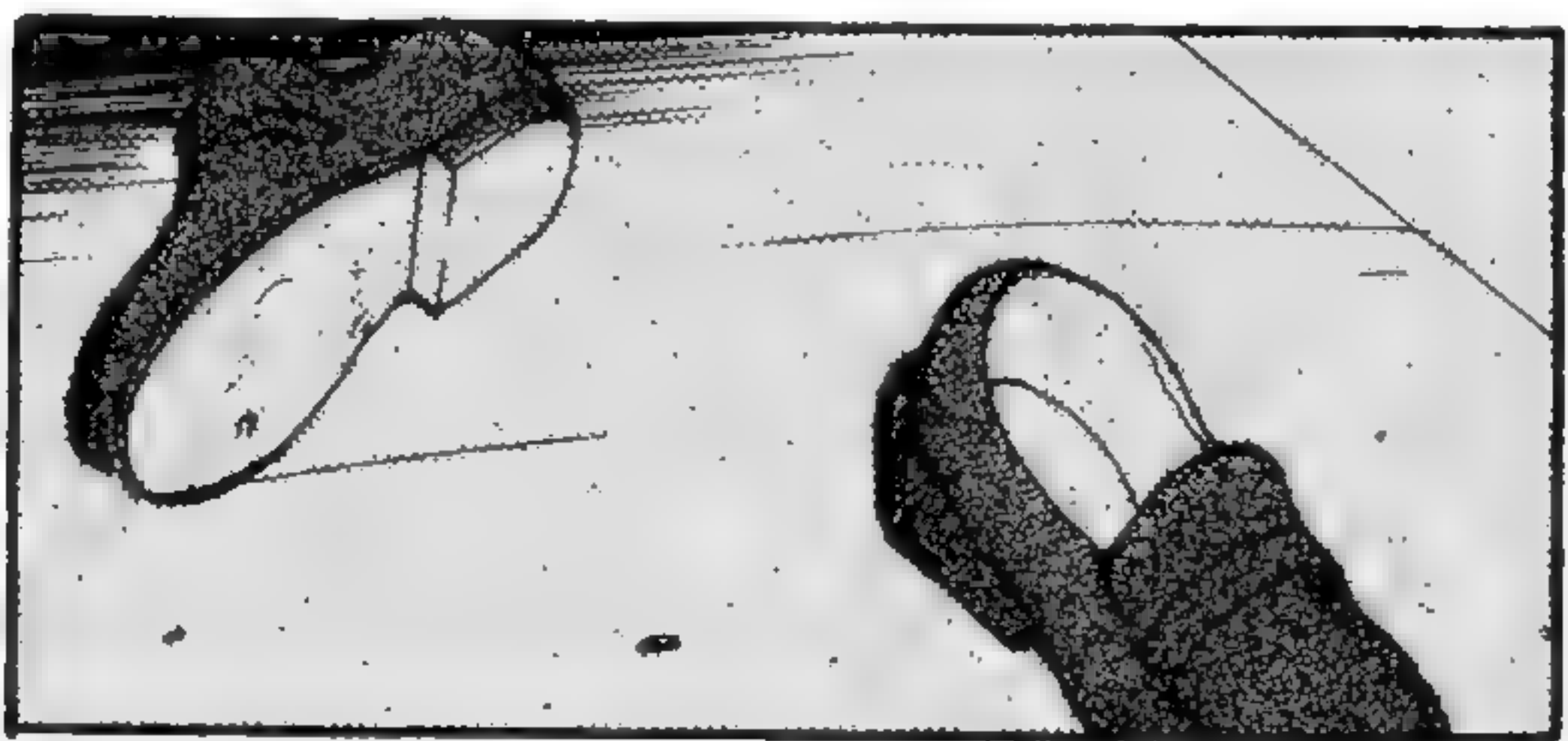
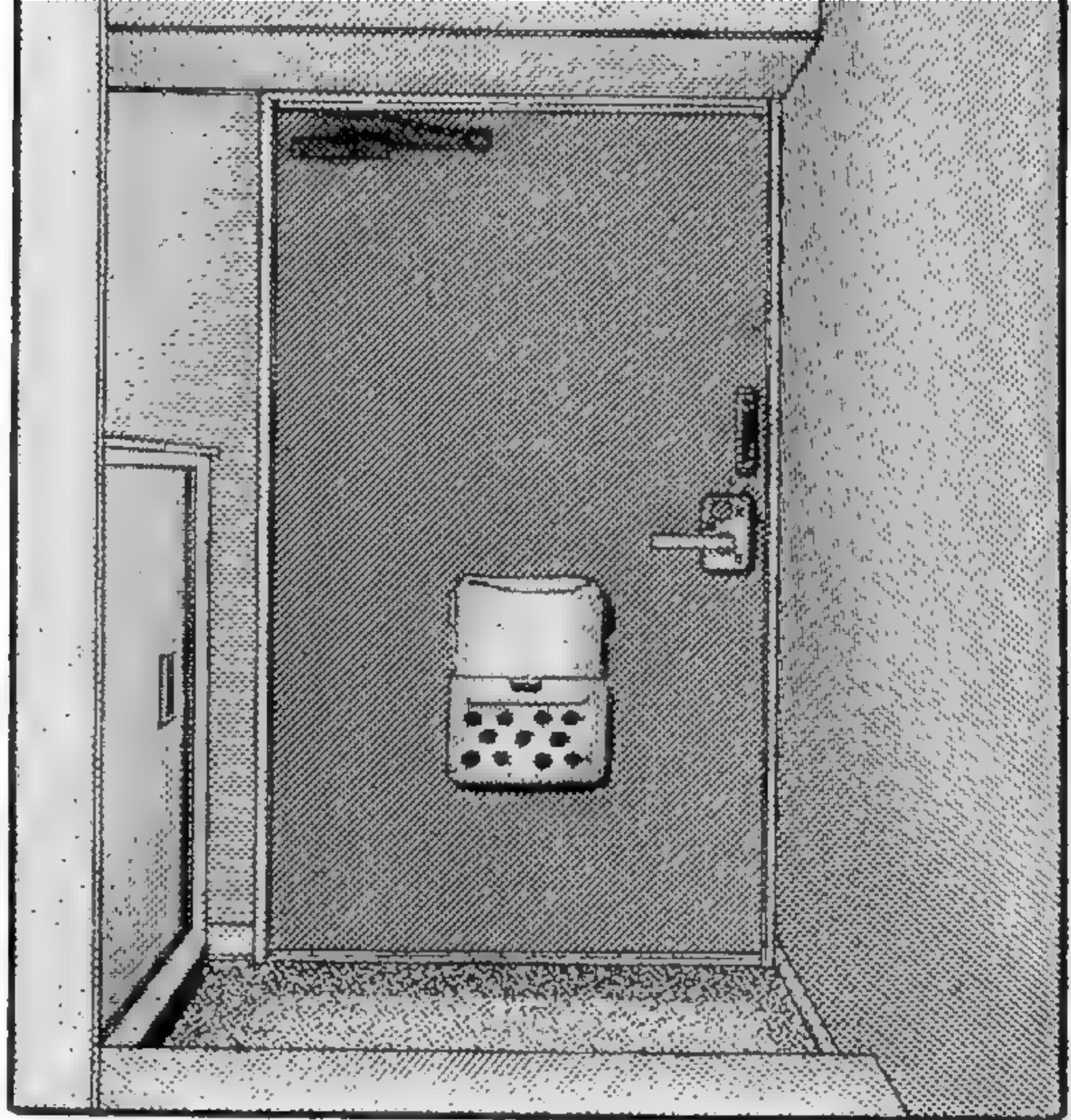
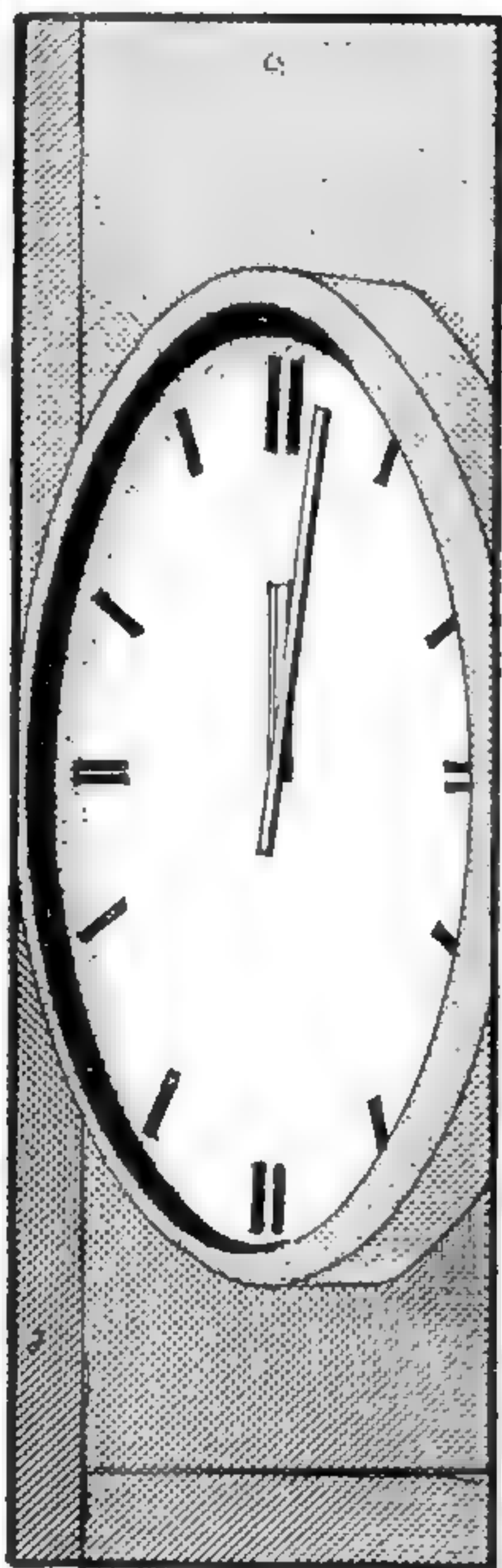
...IT'S  
FADING!!



dimmm







COME  
BACK...!!







PLEASE...

COME  
BACK...

PLEASE...

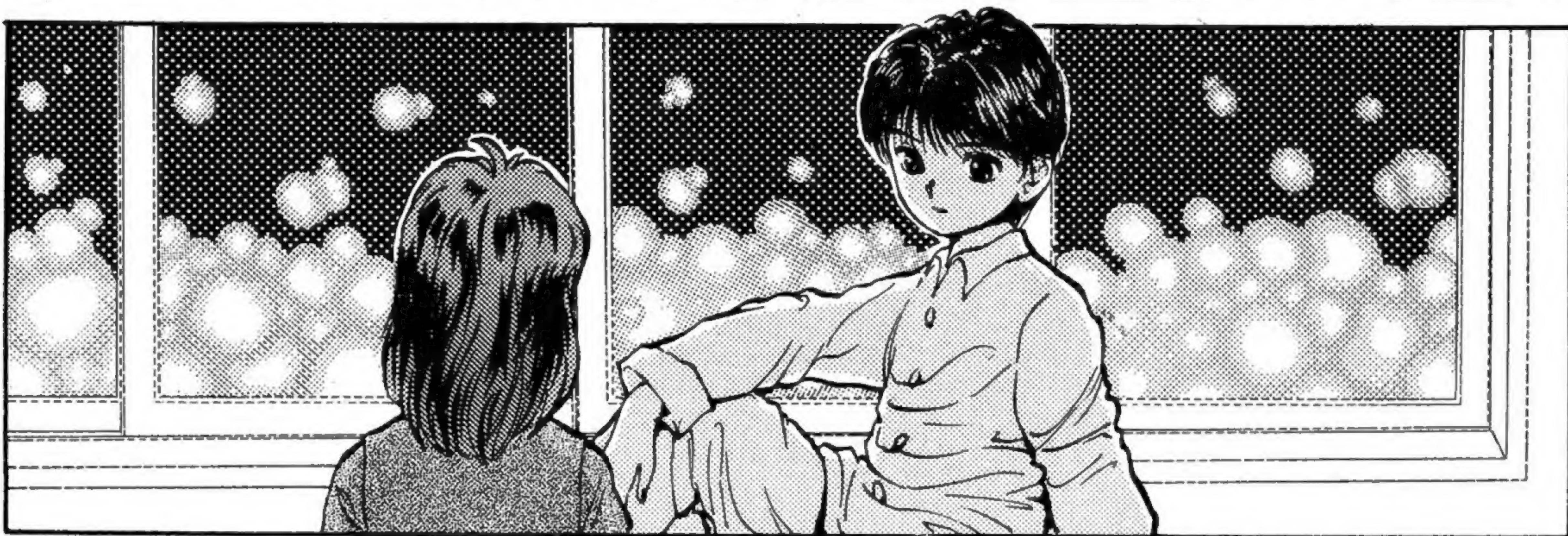
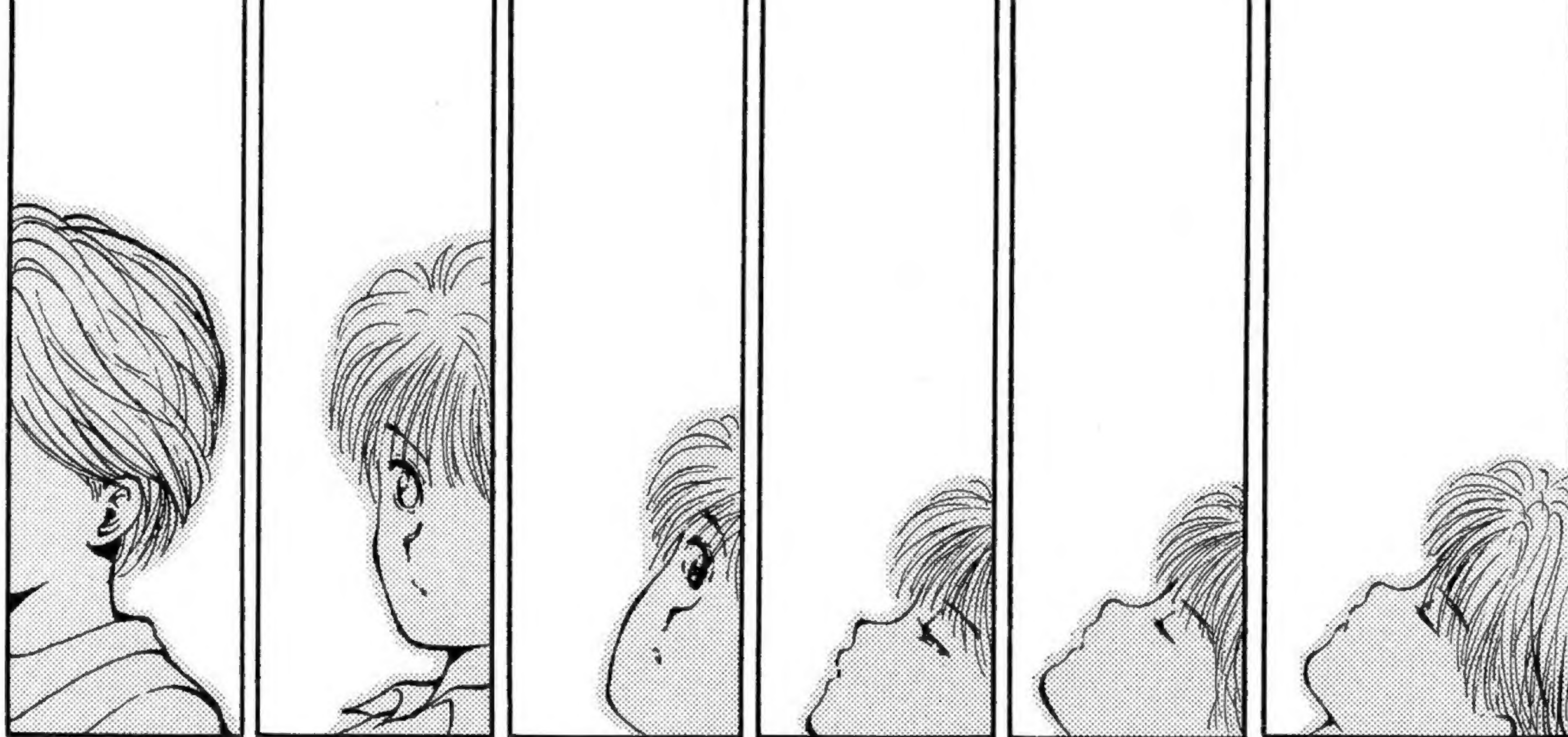


NO...

SLUMP

TOO LATE...  
I DIDN'T  
MAKE IT...





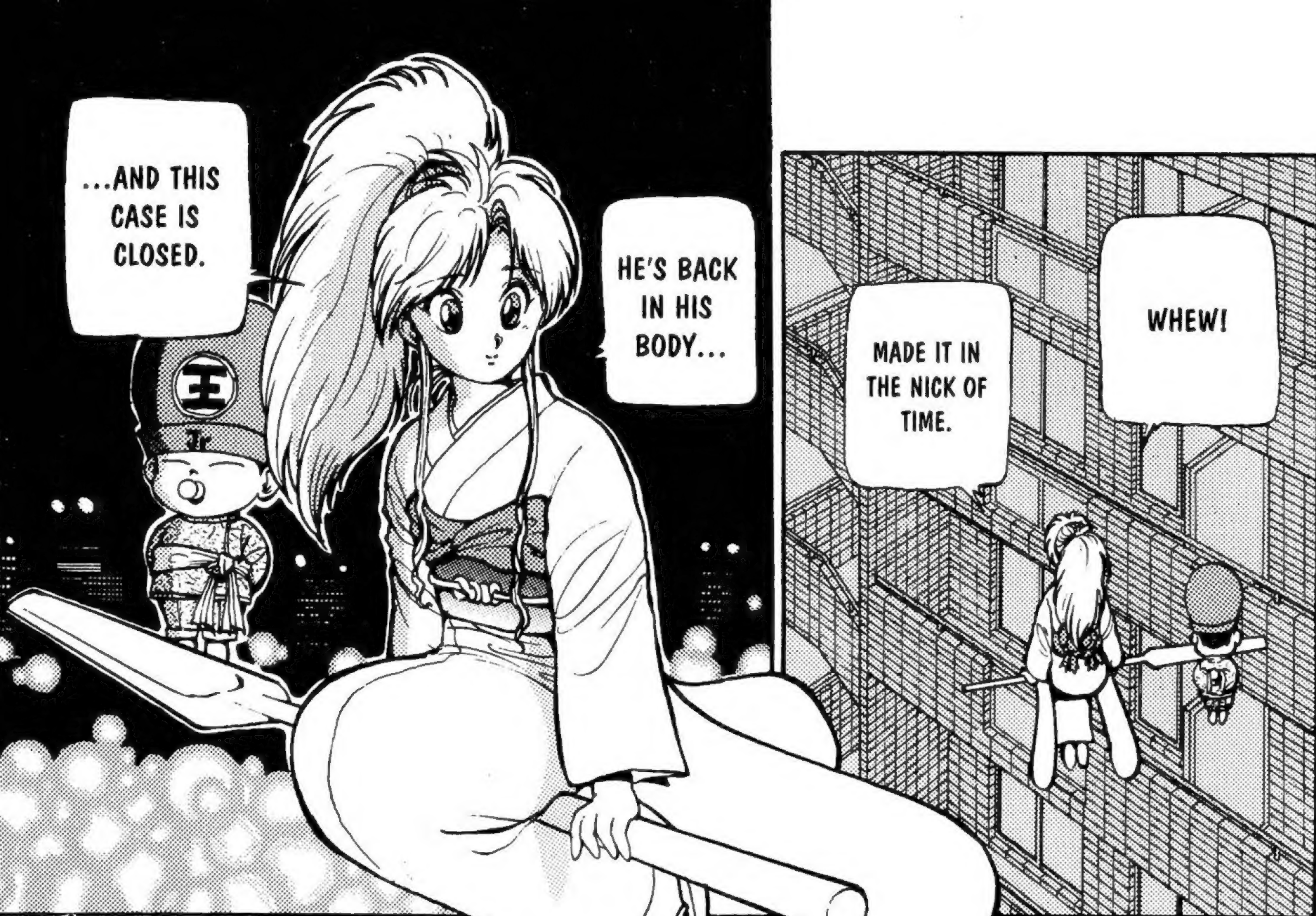
YO...

MORNING...









...AND THIS  
CASE IS  
CLOSED.

HE'S BACK  
IN HIS  
BODY...

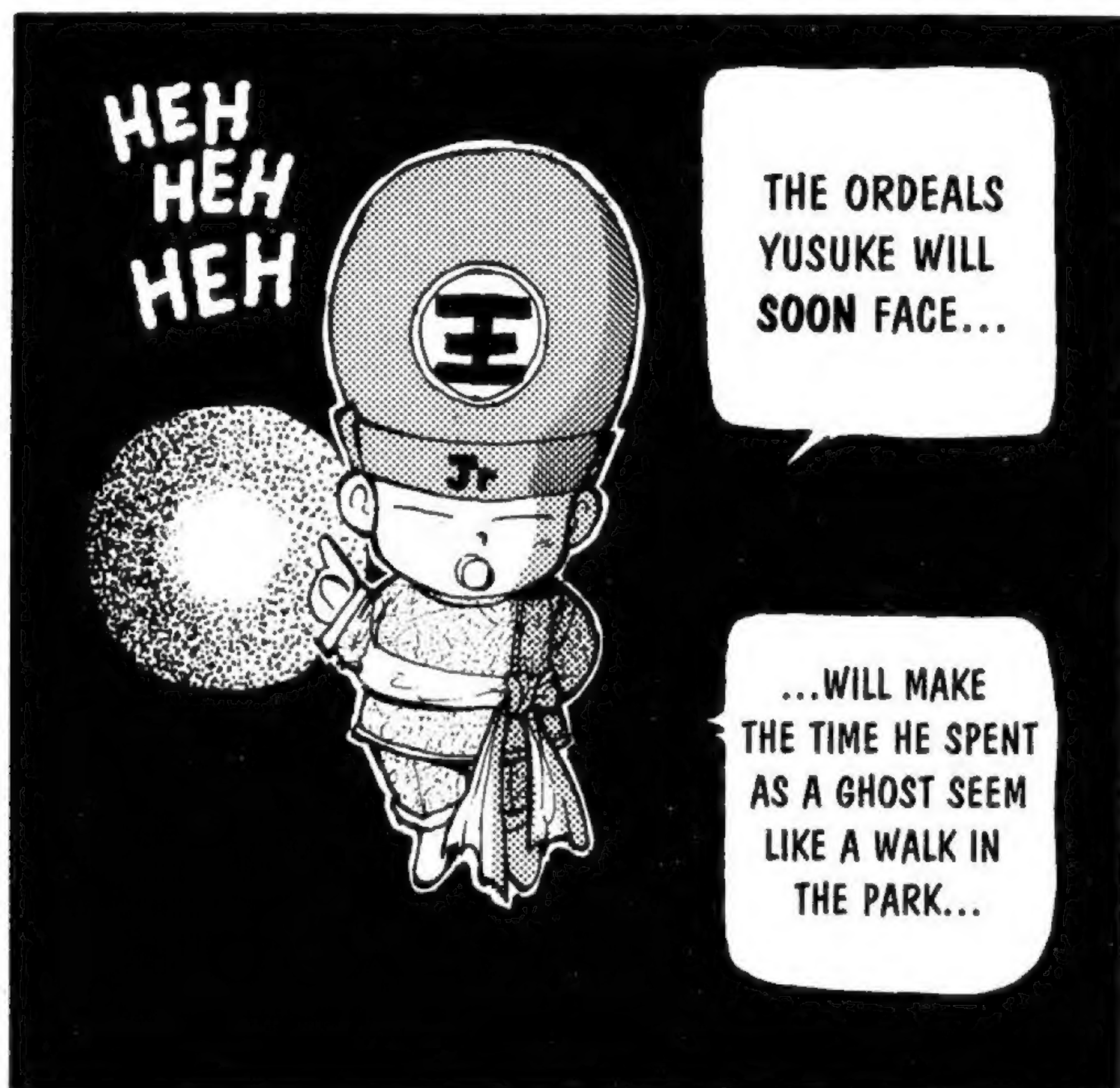
MADE IT IN  
THE NICK OF  
TIME.

WHEW!



ONLY NOW  
HAS THIS  
CASE TRULY  
OPENED.

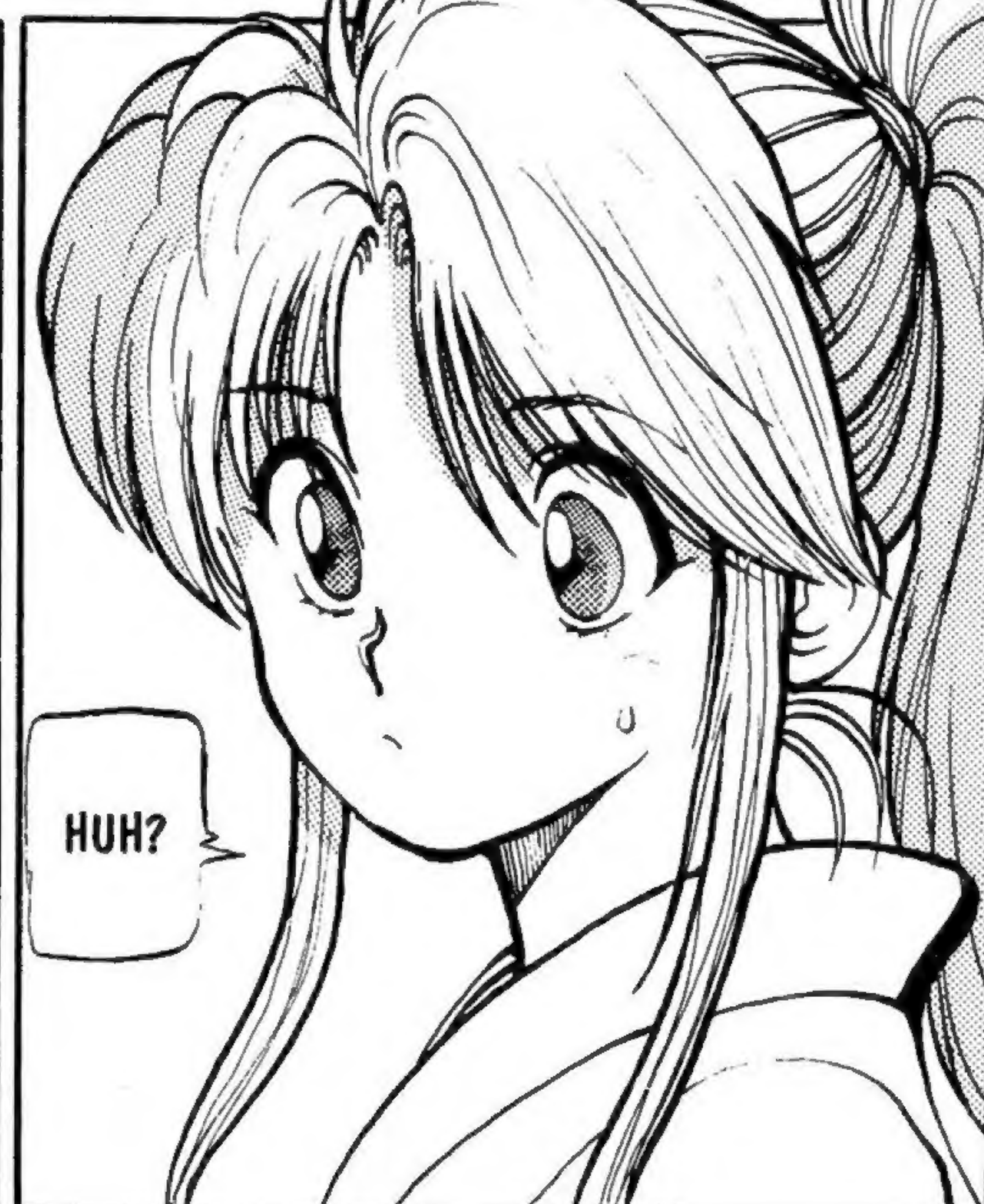
NOT SO FAST,  
BOTAN.



HEH  
HEH  
HEH

THE ORDEALS  
YUSUKE WILL  
SOON FACE...

...WILL MAKE  
THE TIME HE SPENT  
AS A GHOST SEEM  
LIKE A WALK IN  
THE PARK...



HUH?